

BOOK 28

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

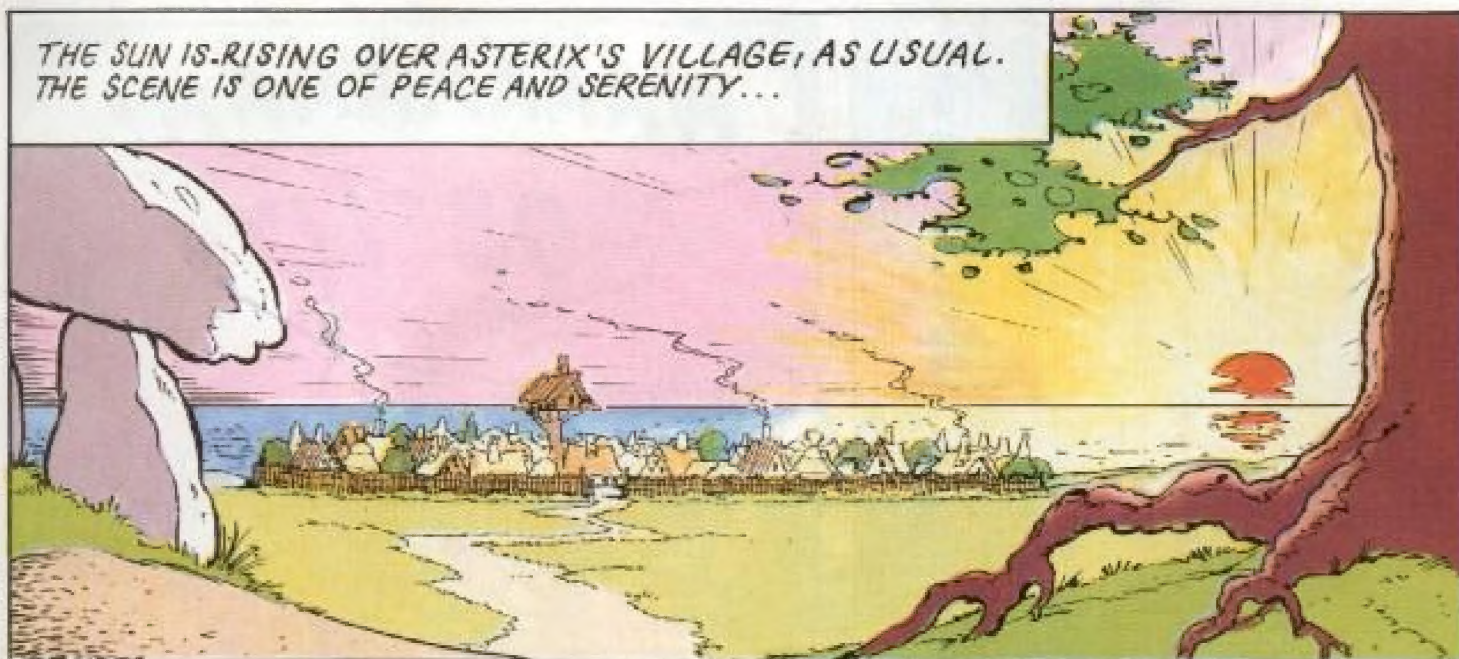
Asterix

and SON

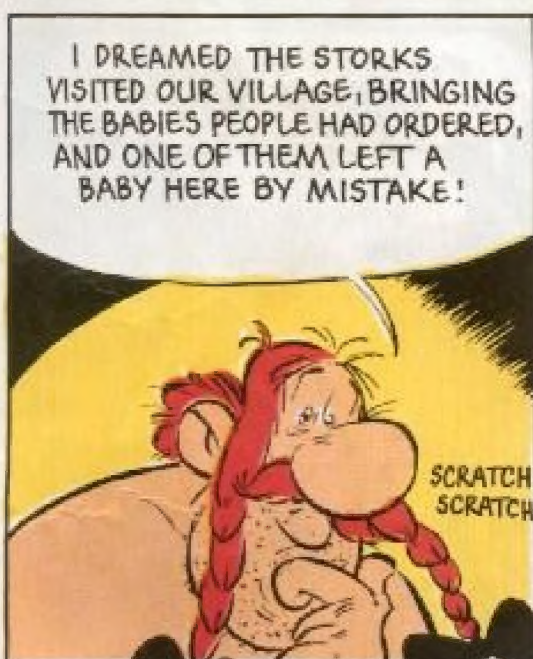
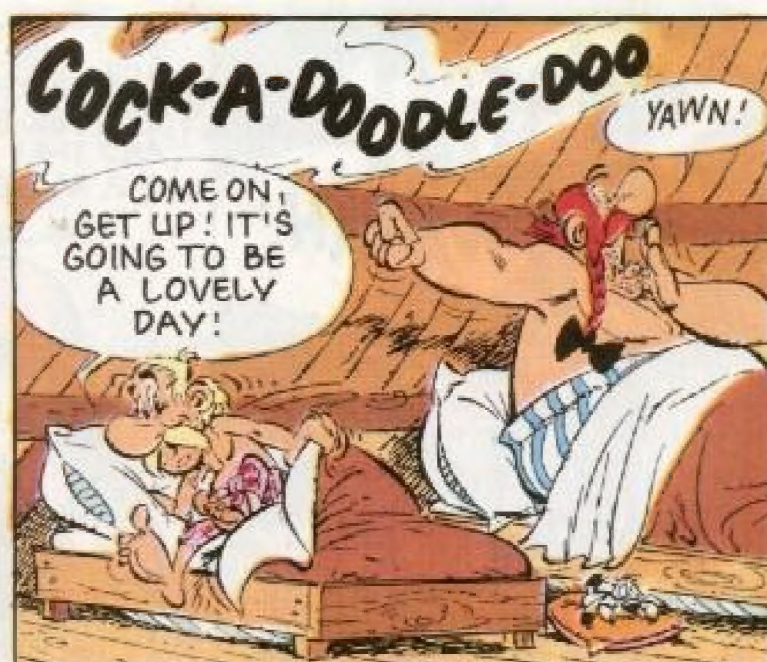
Asterix

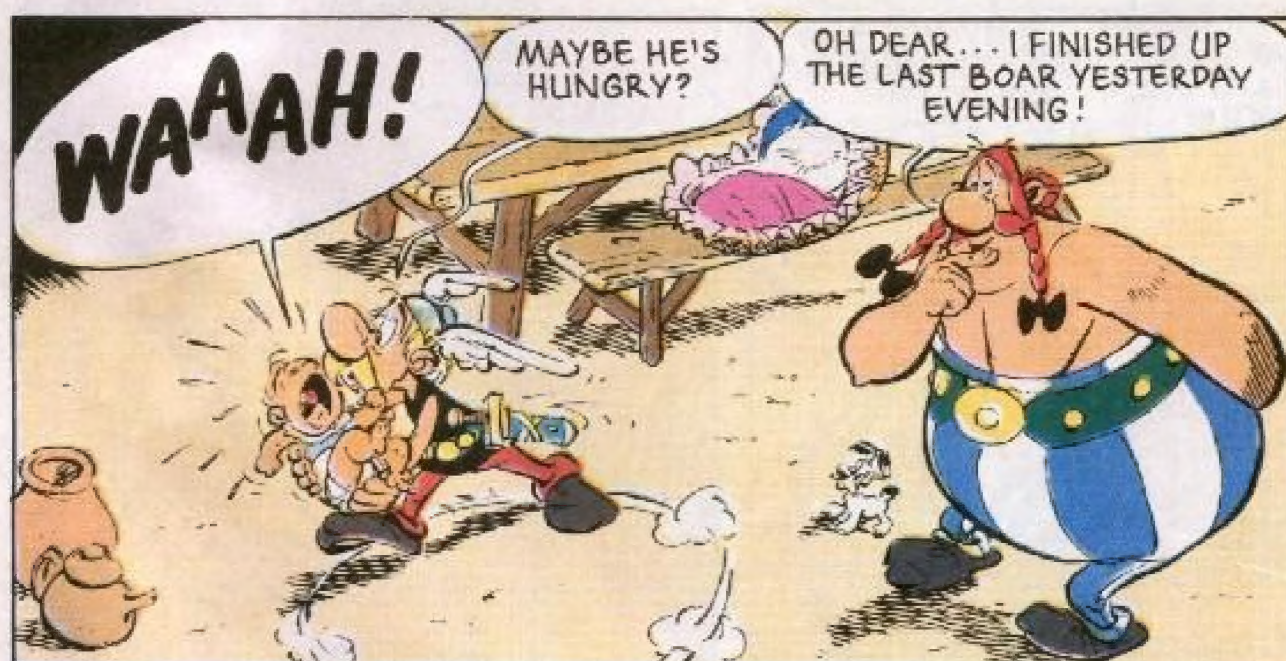


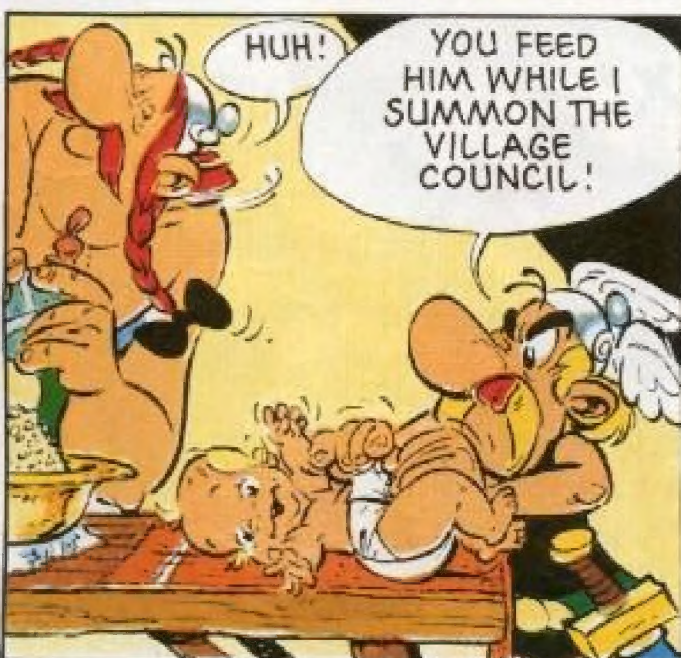
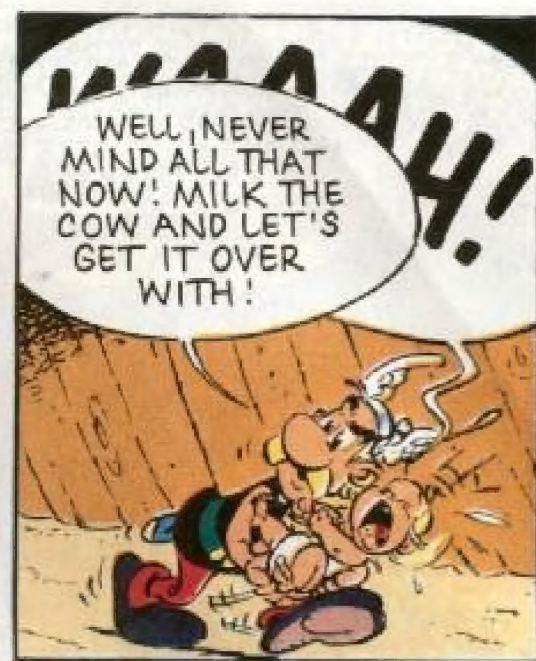
THE SUN IS RISING OVER ASTERIX'S VILLAGE, AS USUAL. THE SCENE IS ONE OF PEACE AND SERENITY...

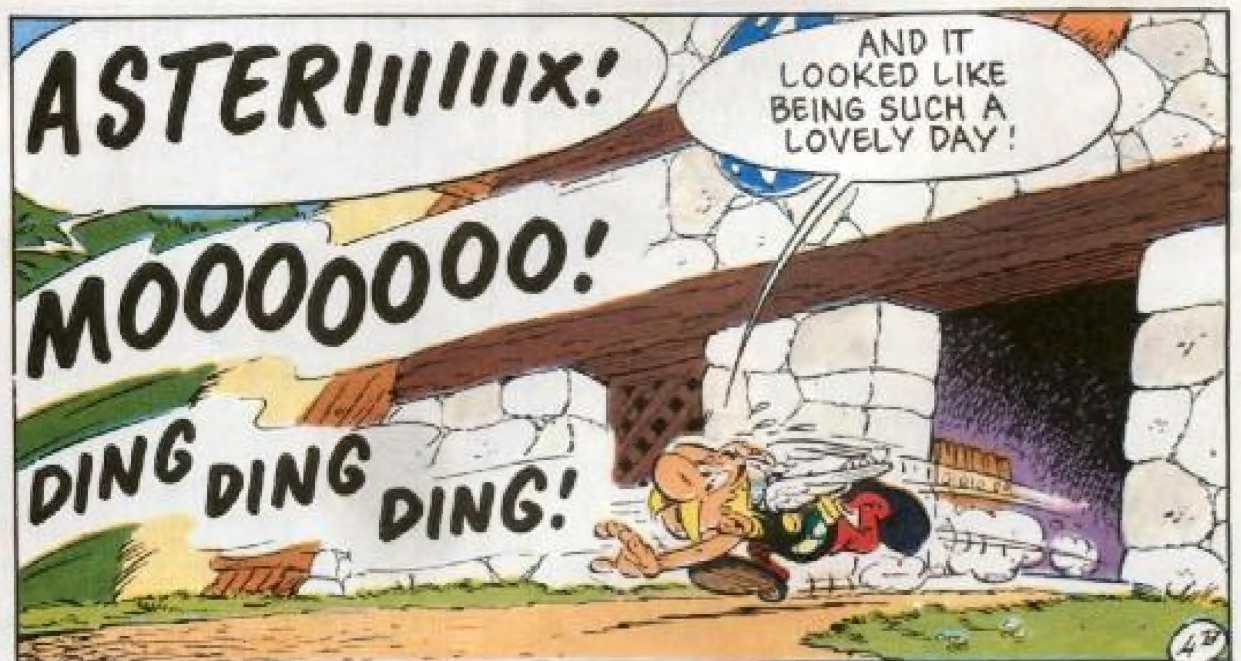
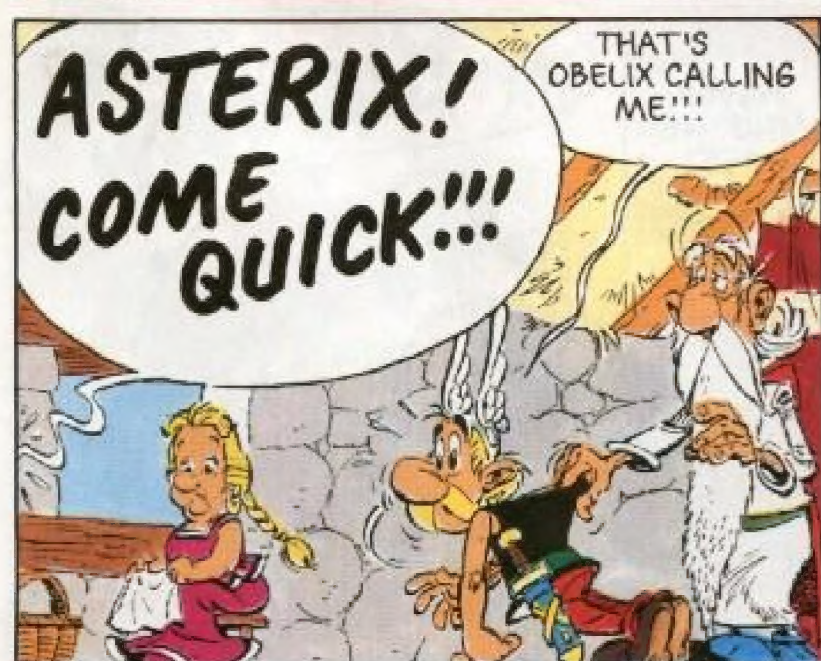
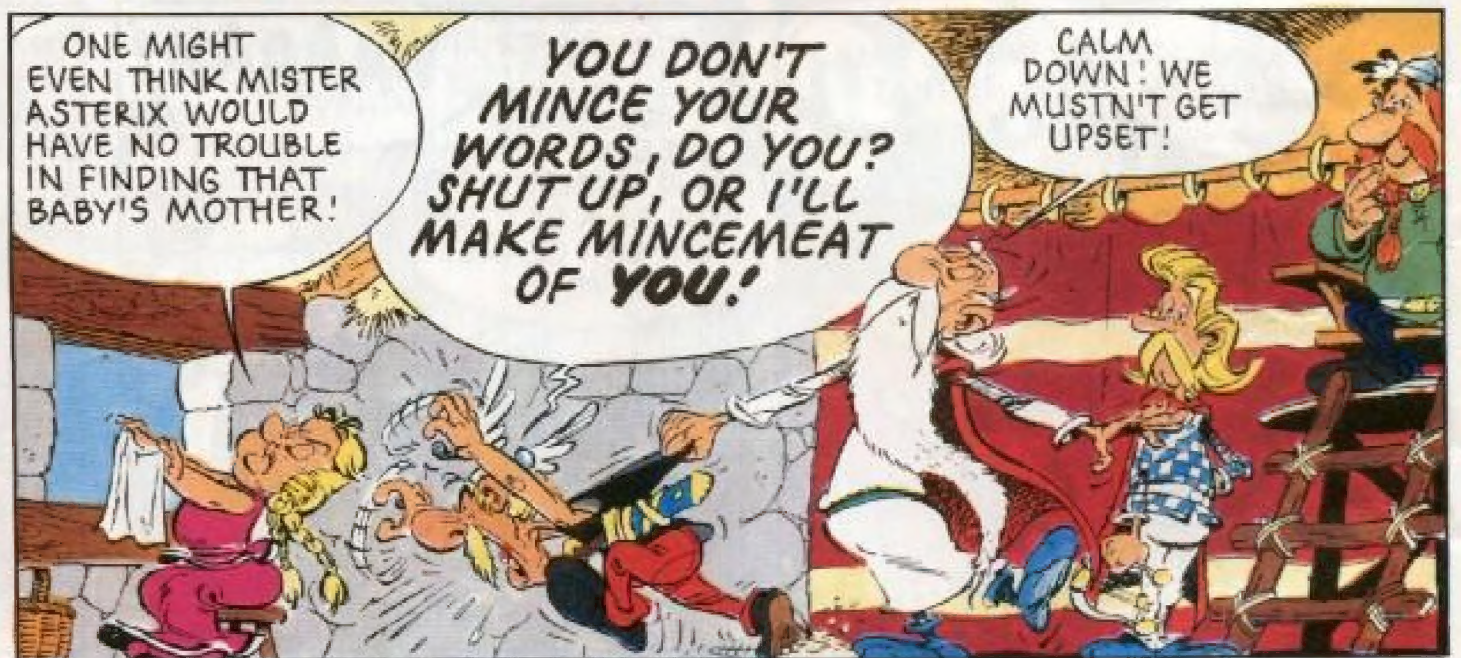


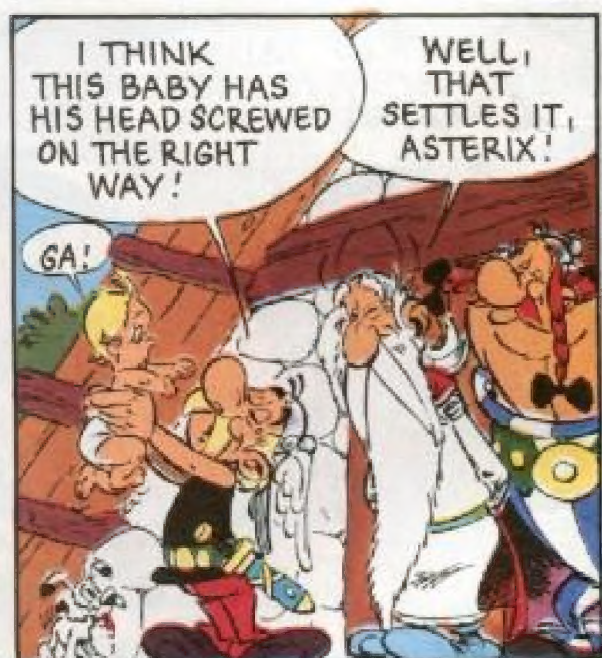
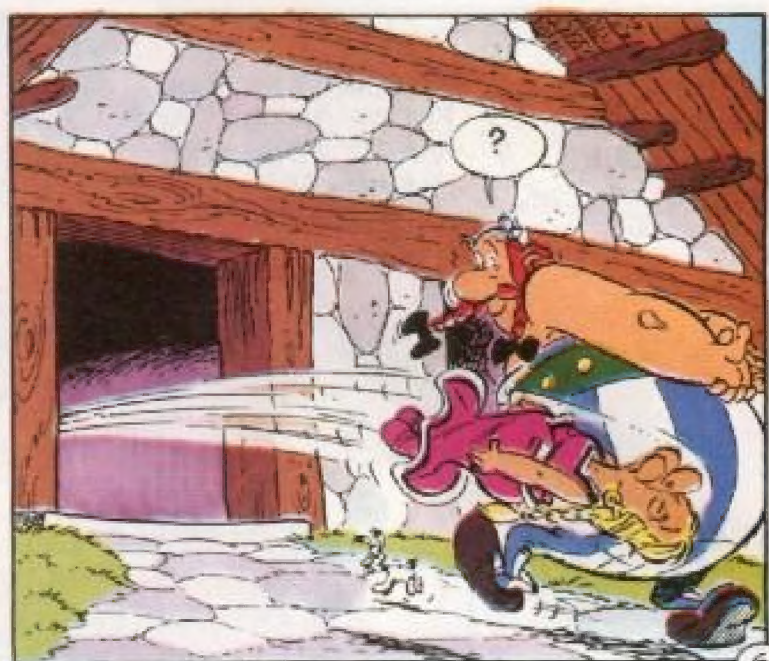
...DISTURBED, DESPITE THE FACT THAT DAY IS DAWNING, BY THE SNORES OF THE ONLY GAULISH ROOSTER WHO HAS ADENOIDS.

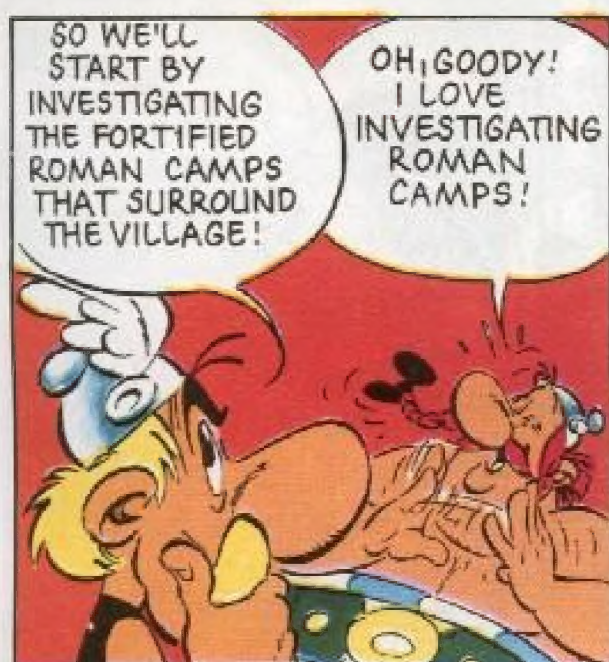
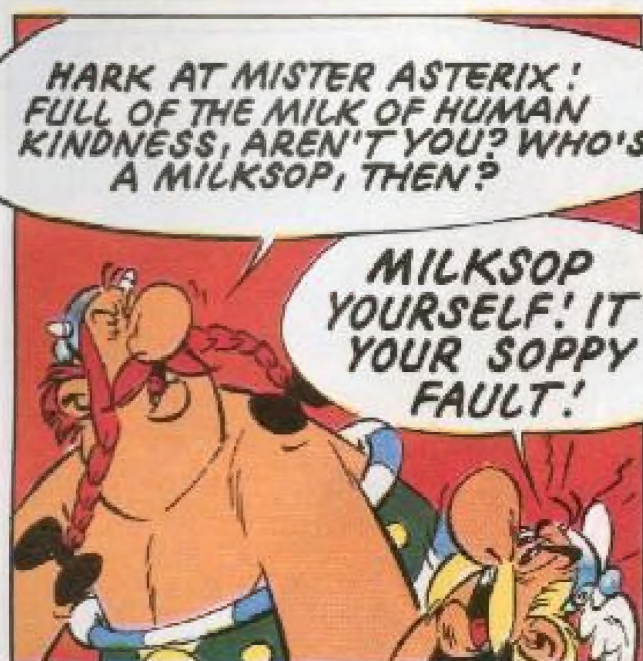


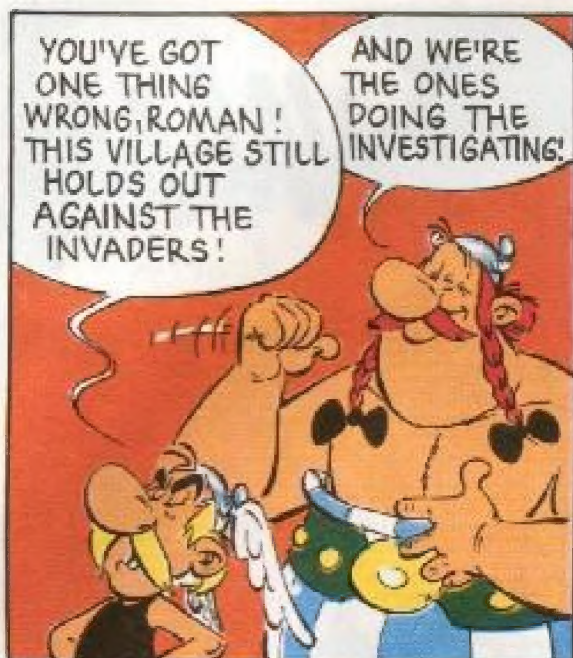
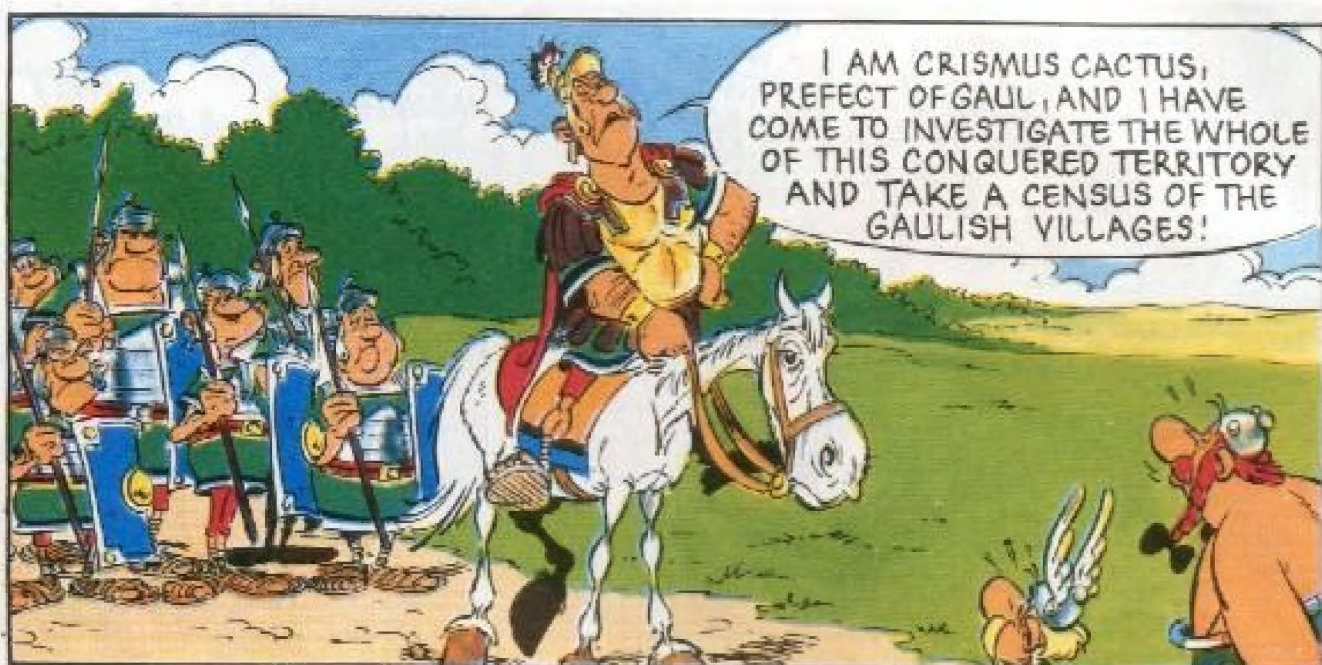


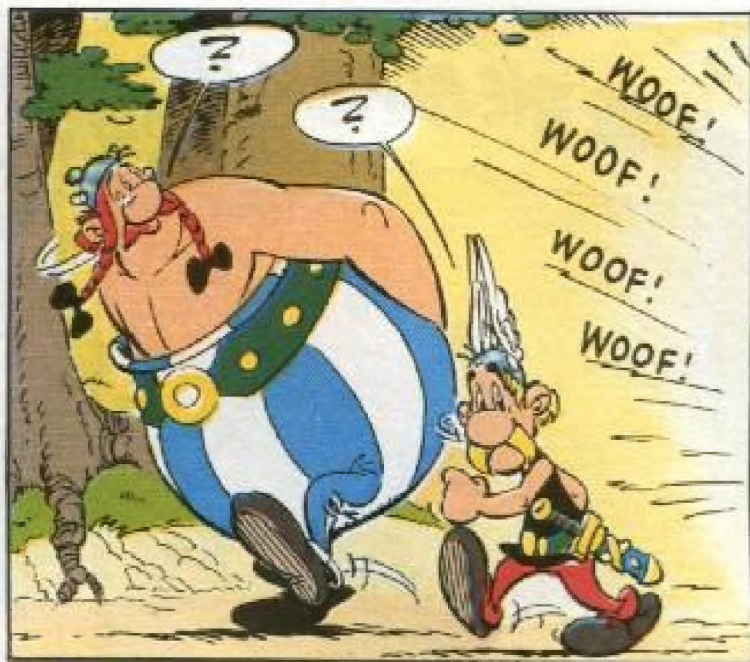


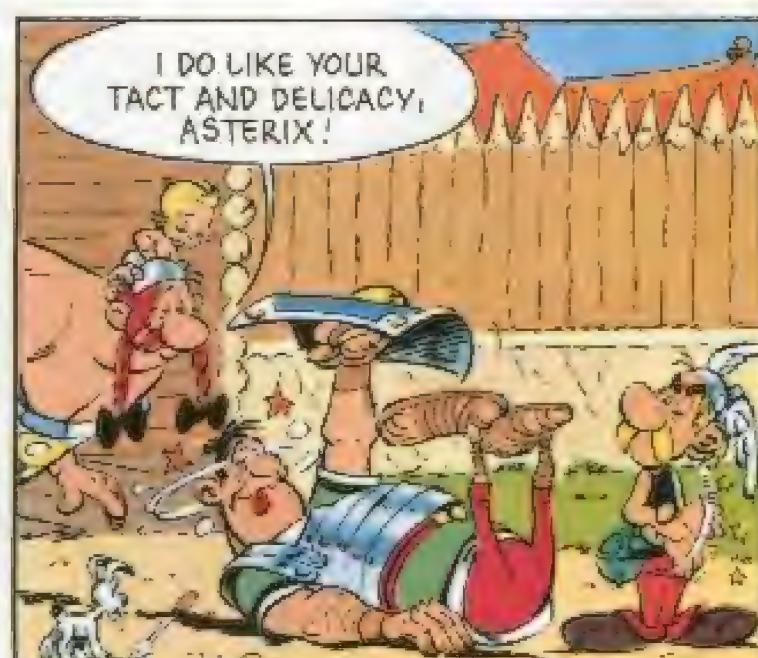
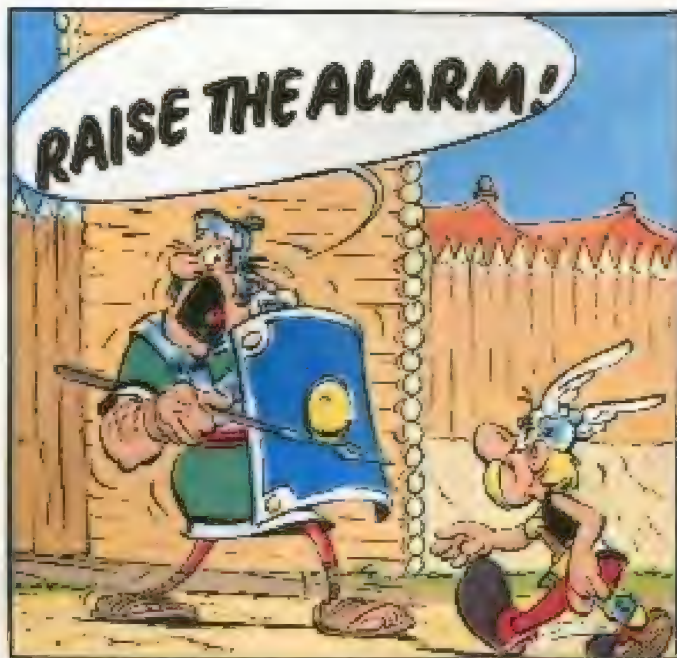


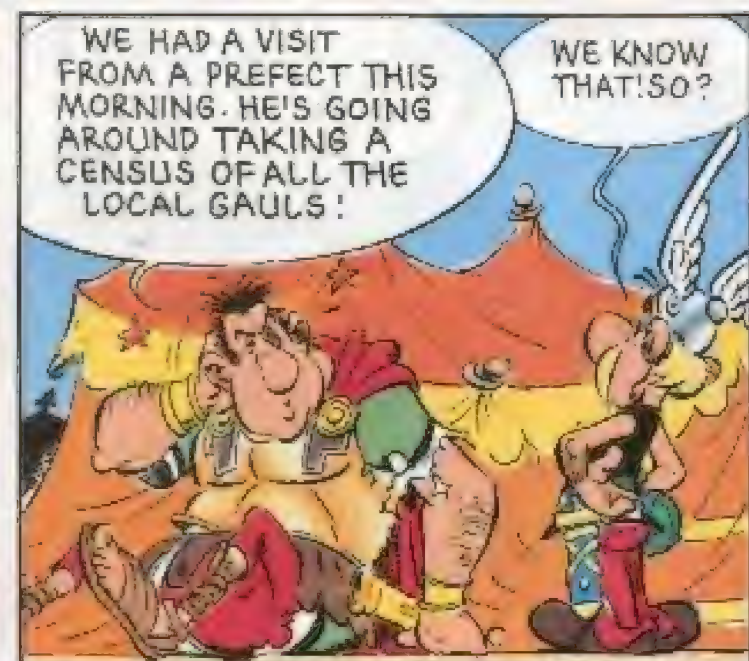


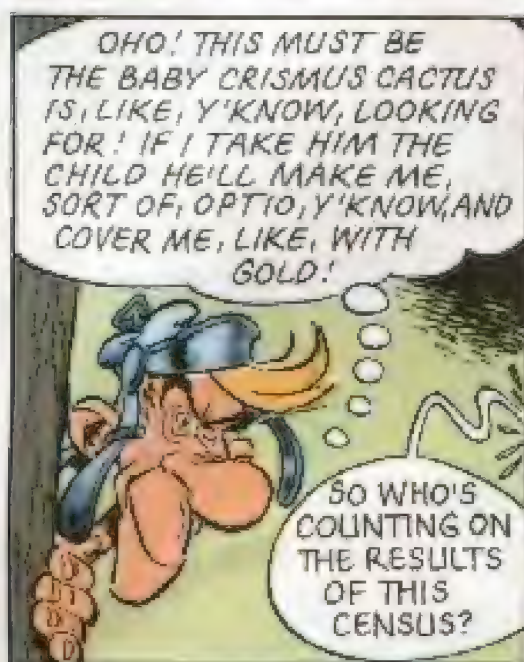












MEANWHILE, AT CONDATUM, IN THE RESIDENCE OF THE PREFECT OF ARMORICA...

QUICK! SEND A MESSENGER OFF TO ROME!

DON'T BOTHER, CACTUS!

BRUTUS!?

THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE COME FROM ROME SPECIALLY TO HEAR THE LATEST ABOUT OUR LITTLE AFFAIR!

JUDGING BY YOUR SLOVENLY APPEARANCE, CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL BARBARIANS IS BAD FOR YOU!

CONTACT WITH THEIR FISTS IS! THIS INVESTIGATION YOU WANTED MADE IS A RISKY BUSINESS!

HAVE YOU FOUND THE BABY?

YES, I HAVE. HE'S IN A LITTLE VILLAGE ON THE NORTH COAST... BUT GUARDED BY TWO FIERCE GAULS WHO FLATTENED AN ENTIRE INFANTRY SECTION!

HMM... CAESAR'S OFTEN TOLD ME ABOUT THAT VILLAGE OF CRAZY BUT INDOMITABLE GAULS WHO GET THEIR STRENGTH FROM DRINKING MAGIC POTION!

BUT I'LL HAVE THAT BABY EVEN IF I HAVE TO PUT ALL GAUL TO FIRE AND THE SWORD!!!

LUCKILY, SOME WAY OFF...

COME ON, SON, TRY YOUR LEGS OUT!

GA!

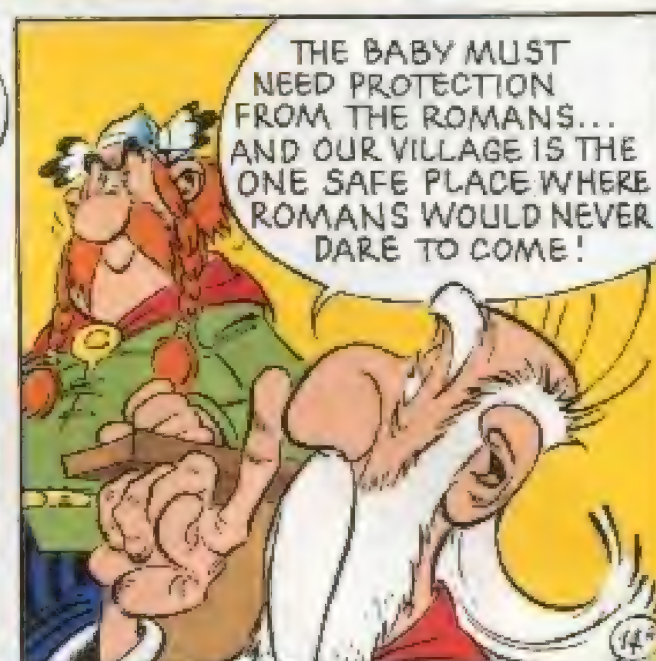
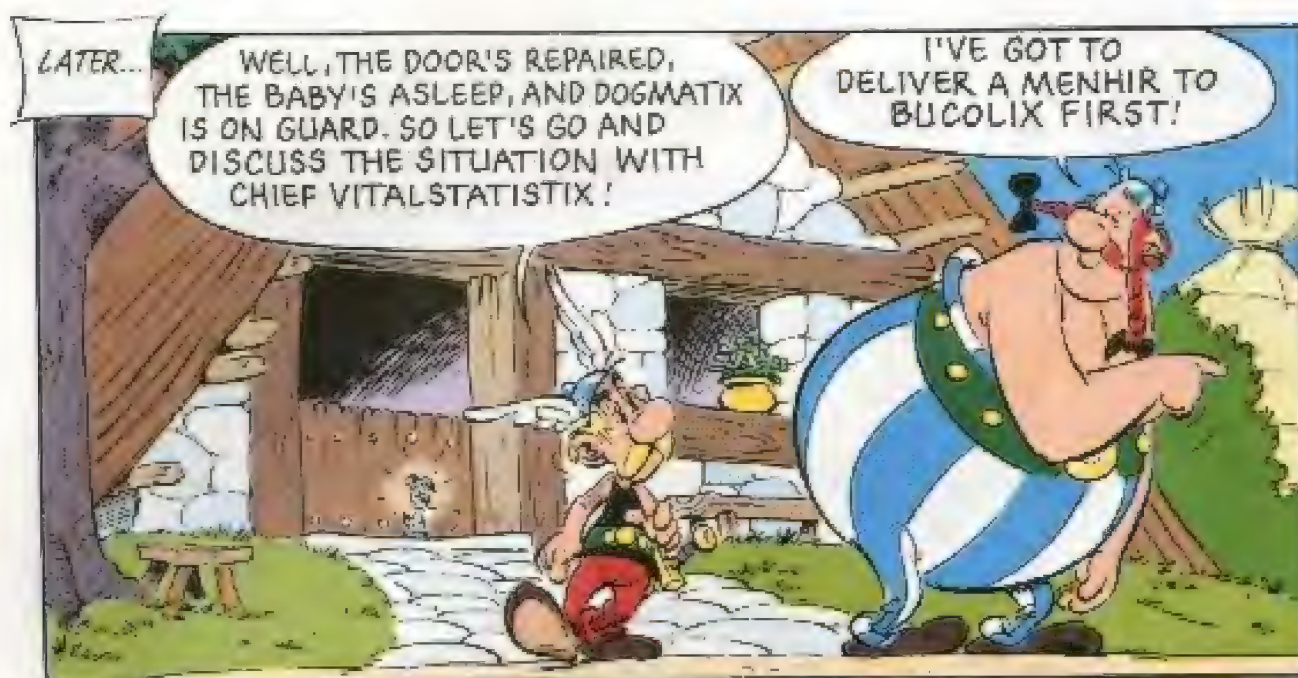
LOOK, ASTERIX! HE KNOWS HIS HOME ALREADY!

BANG!

JUST LIKE ME AT HIS AGE!

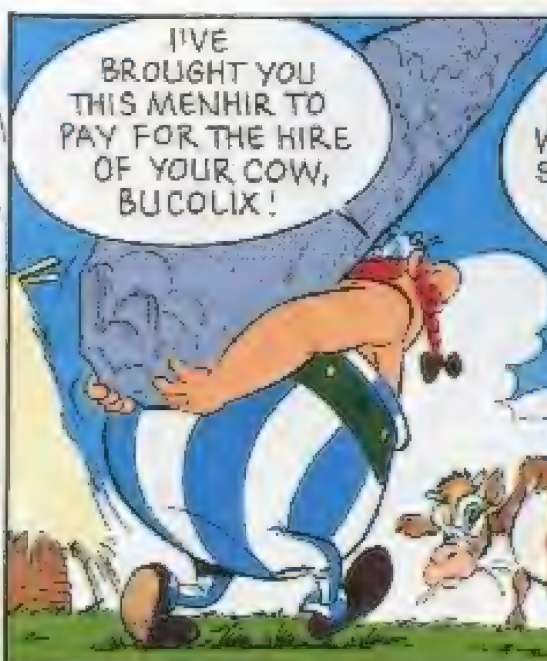
I WONDER IF WE'RE SETTING THAT CHILD A GOOD EXAMPLE?

AGA!





HE GETS FUNNY MOODS, DOES VITALSTATISTIX! IT'S NOT MY FAULT IF HIS DOOR ISN'T UP TO MY MENHIRS!



I'VE BROUGHT YOU THIS MENHIR TO PAY FOR THE HIRE OF YOUR COW, BUCOLIX!

OH, ARR! THERE BE SUMMAT OI WANTS TO ASK YOU, OBELIX... WHAT WERE YOU A-DOIN' OF WITH SHE? SHE BE PROPER COWED! SHE'VE NOBBUT TO SEE A BABBY NOW AND SHE DO BE CLIMBIN' TREES!



LOOK, HOW ABOUT A REGULAR MILK RUN? YOU DELIVER MILK BY THE BUCKET, UNPACKAGED, SAME AS I DELIVER MENHIRS! WHERE SHALL I PUT THIS ONE?

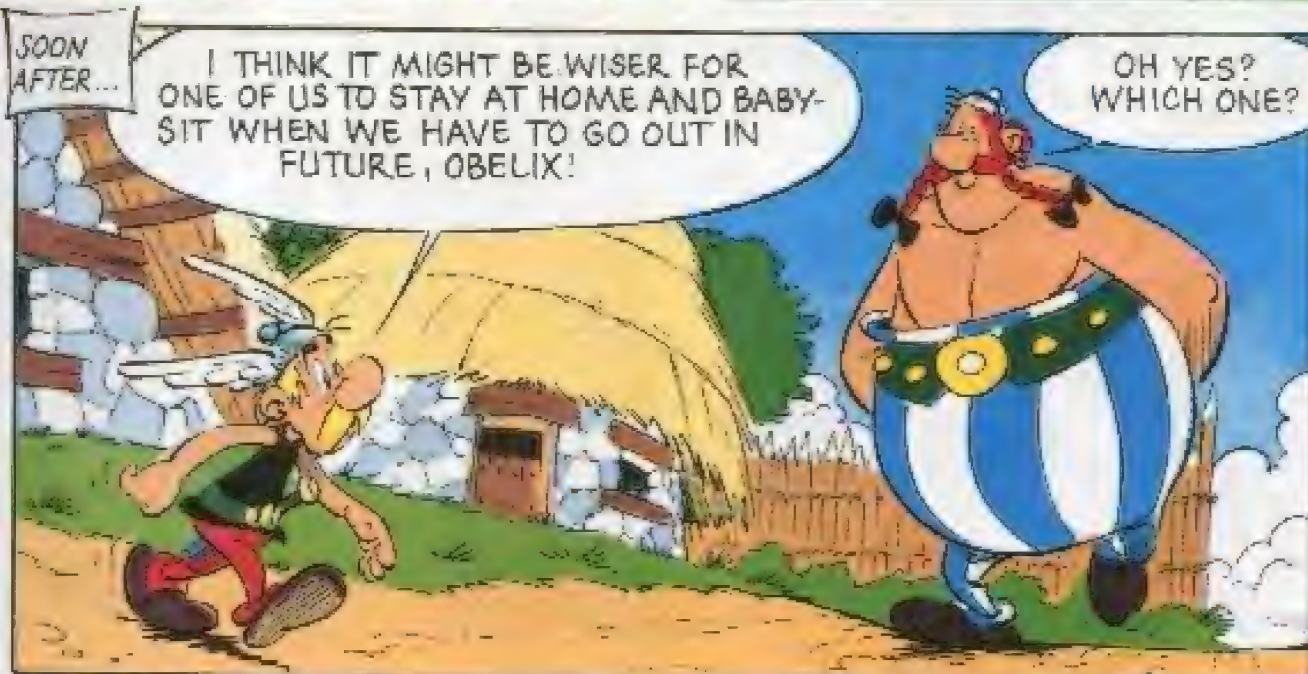
OI'LL 'AVE IT IN THAT THERE FIELD, ALONG OF T'OTHERS!



ISN'T THAT BEAUTIFUL! ER... WHAT DO YOU USE YOUR MENHIR COLLECTION FOR?

OI DON'T USE THAT FOR NOWT... THEY DO SAY AS THE LAND HEREABOUTS BAIN'T NO GOOD FOR GROWIN' NOWT BUT STONES, SO OI MOIGHT AS WELL SEE IF THAT BE AN OLD WOIVES' TALE!*

*A SIMILAR EXPERIMENT WAS THEN GOING ON AT STONEHENGE.



SOON AFTER...

I THINK IT MIGHT BE WISER FOR ONE OF US TO STAY AT HOME AND BABY-SIT WHEN WE HAVE TO GO OUT IN FUTURE, OBELIX!

OH YES? WHICH ONE?



WELL, IN A WORD YOU!

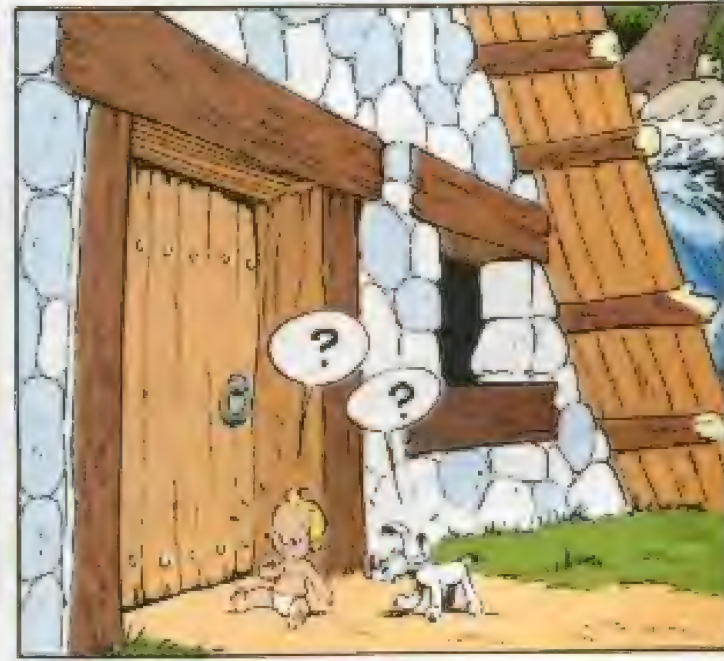
WORDS FAIL ME! WHY NOT YOU?



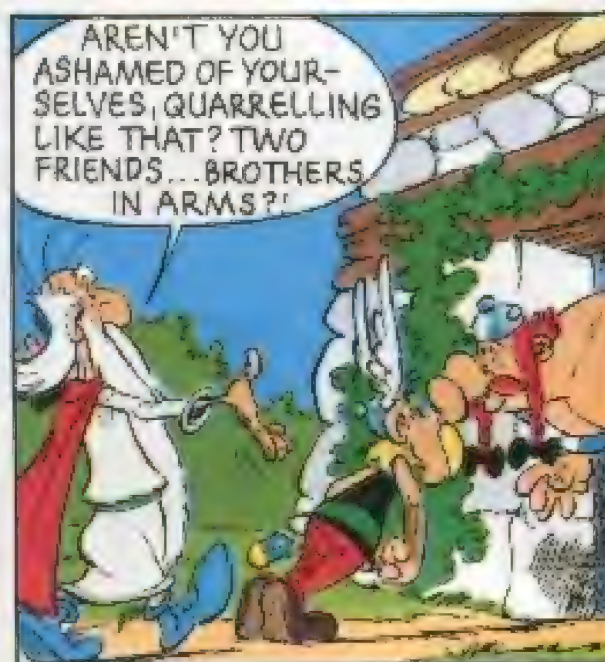
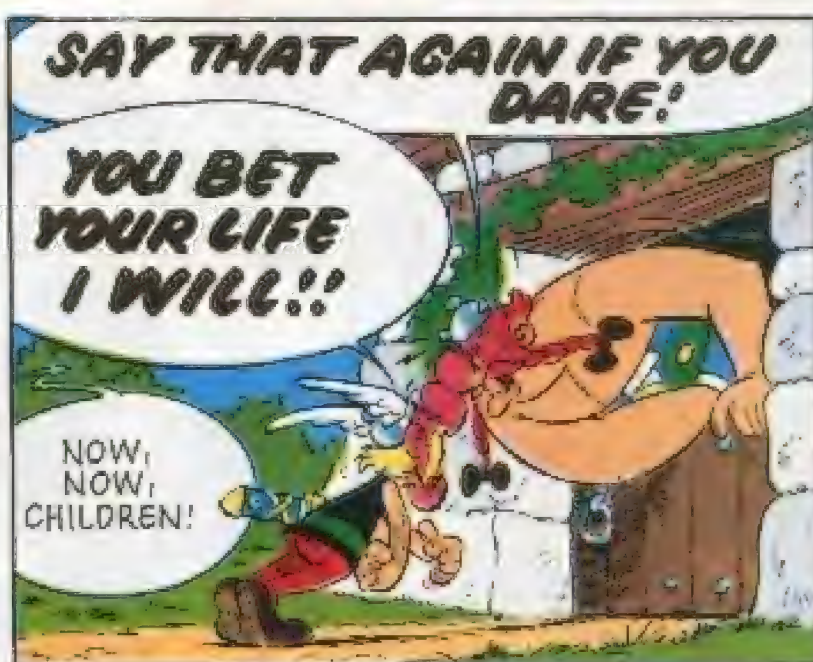
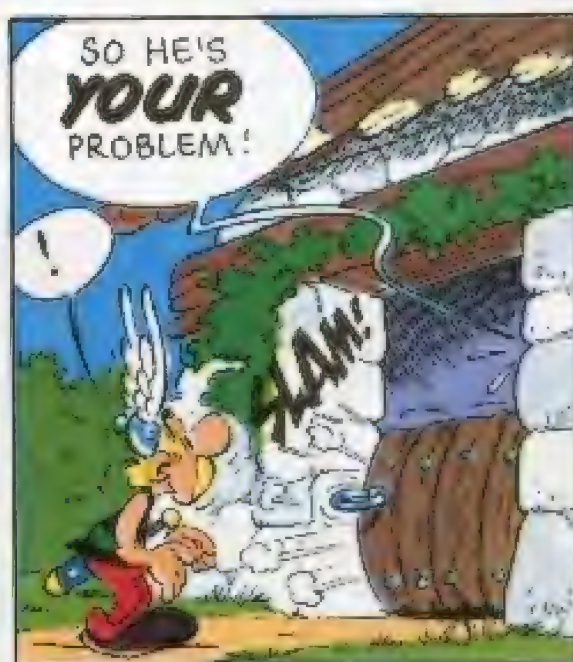
BECAUSE MY TACT AND DELICACY ARE BETTER THAN YOURS WHEN IT COMES TO LOOKING FOR THAT BABY'S PARENTS, AND THAT'S MY LAST WORD!

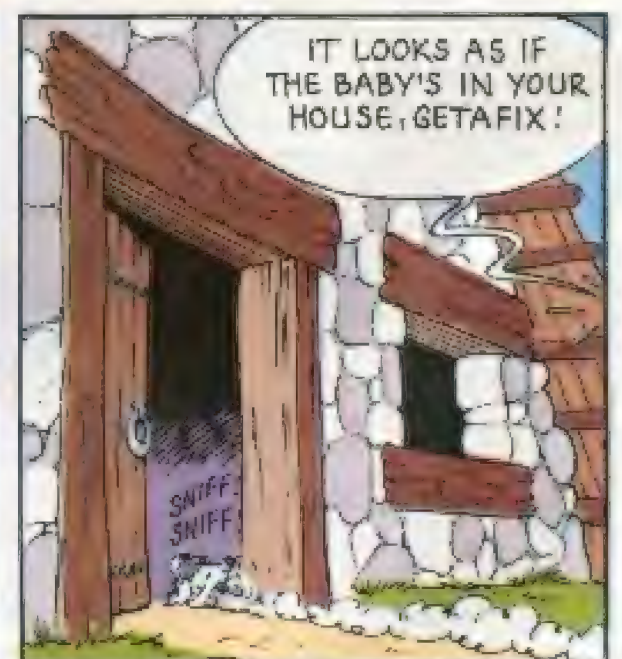
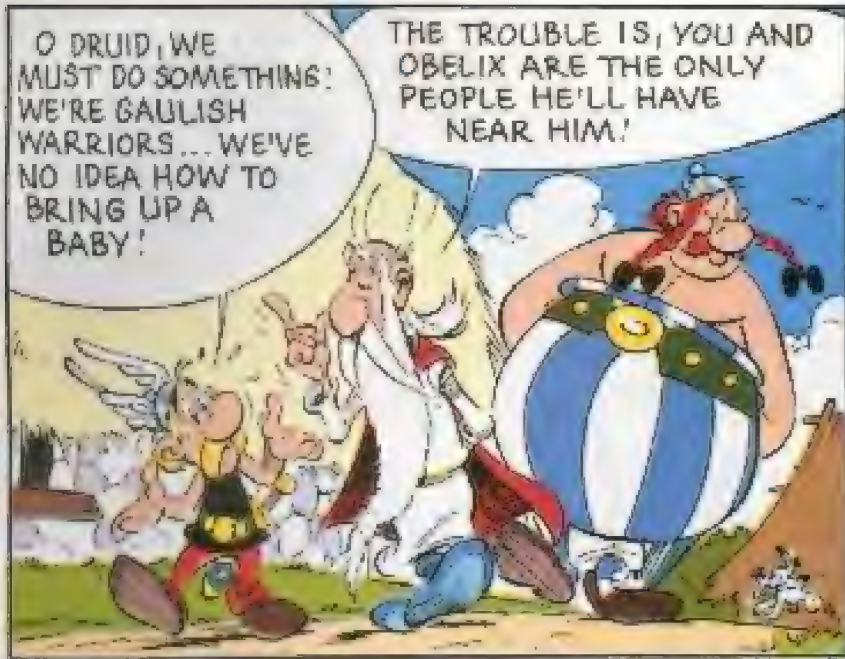


OH, MY WORD! ???!!









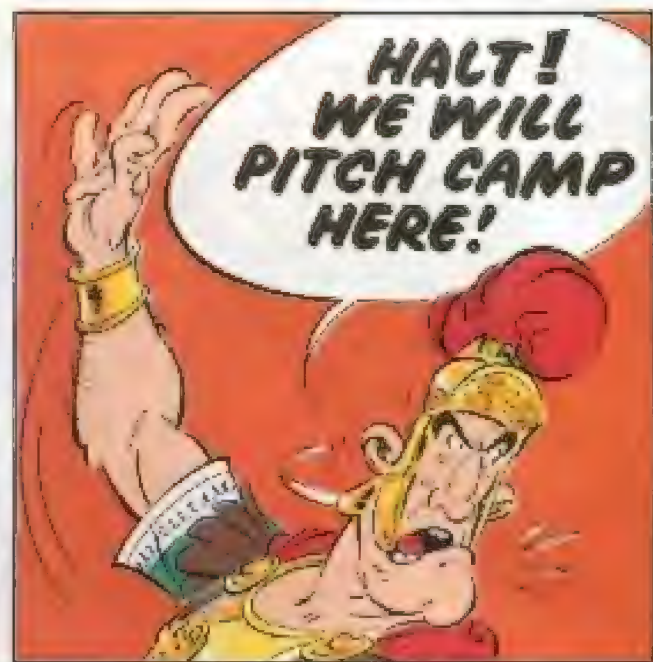
MEANWHILE,
NOT FAR
FROM THE
VILLAGE...

O MARCUS JUNIUS BRUTUS,
SINCE WE WANT OUR HQ NEAR THE
INDOMITABLE GAULS, WHY DON'T WE
USE ONE OF THE FORTIFIED CAMPS
SURROUNDING THEIR VILLAGE?

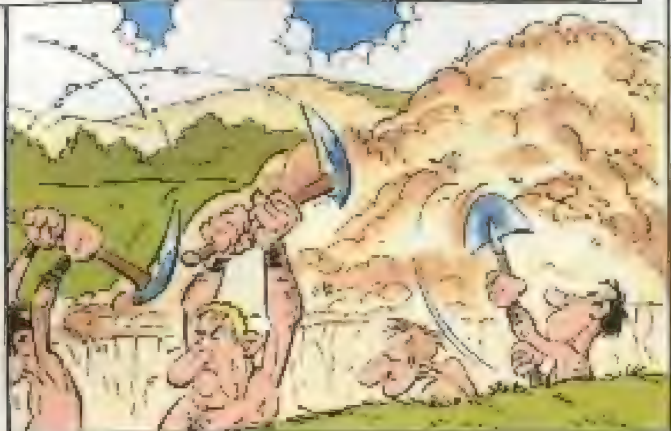
BECAUSE CAESAR MIGHT
GET TO HEAR OF IT, AND
I'M NONE TOO KEEN TO
HAVE HIM ASKING ME
WHAT I'M DOING HERE
IN ARMORICA!



**HALT!
WE WILL
PITCH CAMP
HERE!**



AND ONCE AGAIN WE ARE
PRIVILEGED TO WATCH THE
MANOEUVRES OF THE ROMAN
ARMY. WHILE THE SAPPERS DIG A
FOSSA (DITCH) AND RAISE AN
AGGER (RAMPART)...



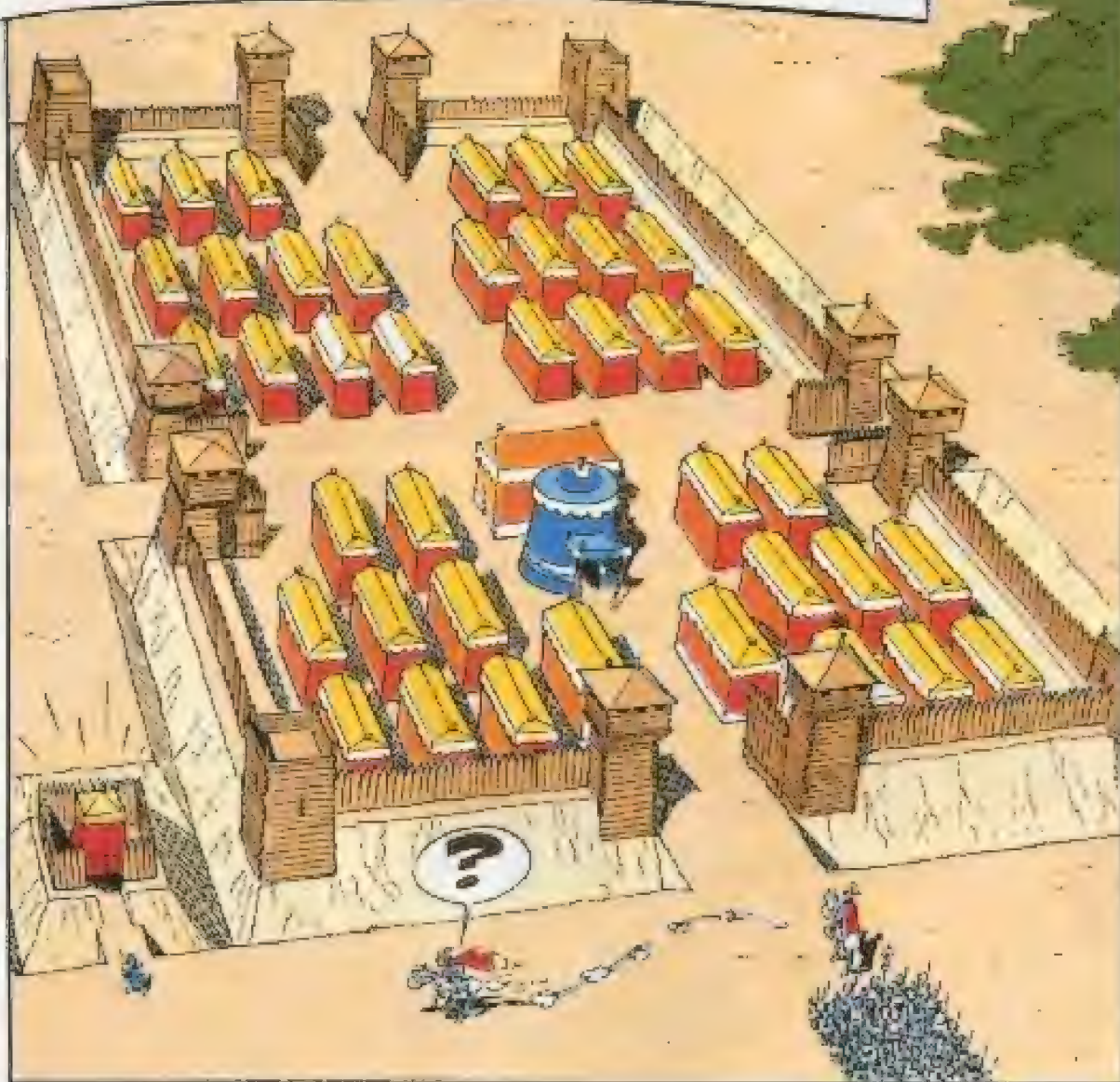
...THE WOODCUTTERS GO
TO CHOP DOWN TREES...



...FOR THE CARPENTERS TO BUILD
THE VALLUM (FENCE).



AT LAST THE CAMP IS READY. THE GENERAL AND HIS
MEN ARE ABOUT TO ENTER IN REVIEW ORDER, THUS
SYMBOLIZING THE MIGHT OF THE ROMAN ARMY, THE
BEST-DISCIPLINED FIGHTING FORCE IN THE WORLD...



... ALTHOUGH
SOMETIMES...



WHAT'S
THAT?

MY TENT!
I CAN'T STAND
THE WAY THE
OTHERS SNORE
IN BED!



HERE'S ODORIFERUS, THE LEGIONARY I MENTIONED, O BRUTUS!

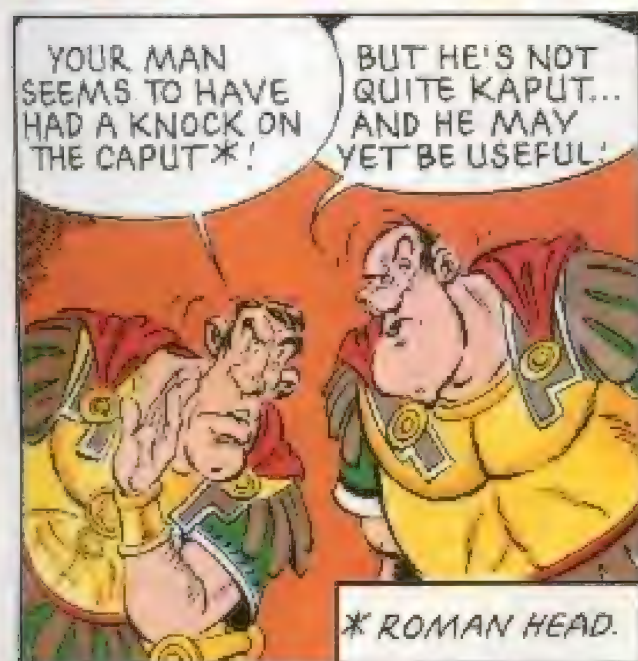
HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE LOOKING FOR A BABY, ODORIFERUS?

I SORT OF, LIKE, HEARD THE PREFECT MENTION IT TO THE CENTURION AT AQUARIUM, O GENERAL, AND I LIKE, Y'KNOW, NEARLY BROUGHT YOU THE BABY BACK!



SO WHAT STOPPED YOU?

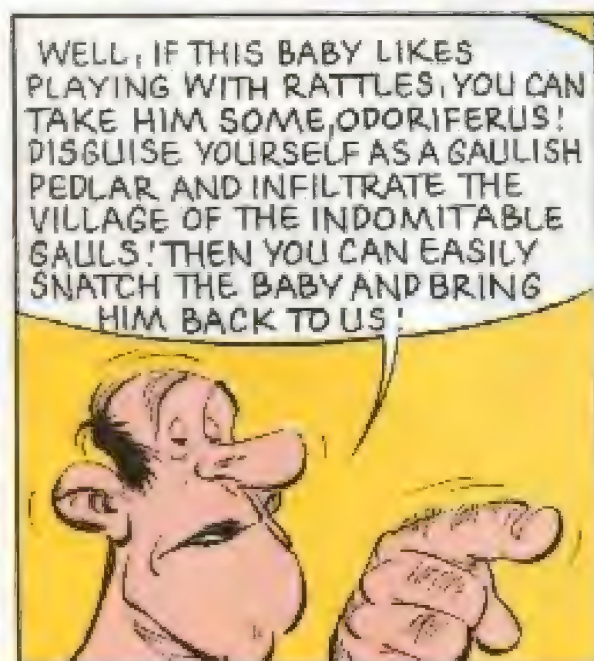
HE DID! HE SORT OF TOOK ME FOR A RATTLE, Y'KNOW, AND THEN HE, LIKE, SWUNG ME AROUND OVER HIS HEAD, O GENERAL!



YOUR MAN SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A KNOCK ON THE CAPUT*!

BUT HE'S NOT QUITE KAPUT... AND HE MAY YET BE USEFUL!

* ROMAN HEAD.

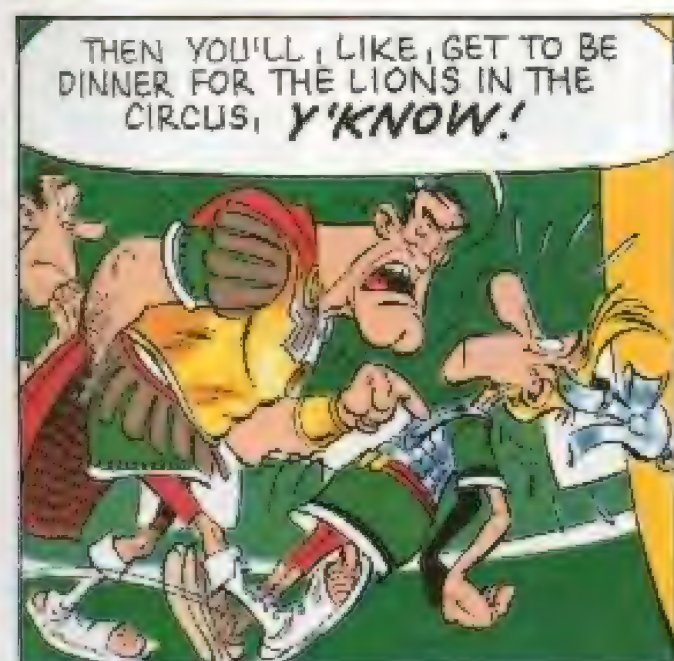


WELL, IF THIS BABY LIKES PLAYING WITH RATTLES, YOU CAN TAKE HIM SOME, ODORIFERUS! DISGUISE YOURSELF AS A GAULISH PEDLAR AND INFILTRATE THE VILLAGE OF THE INDOMITABLE GAULS! THEN YOU CAN EASILY SNATCH THE BABY AND BRING HIM BACK TO US!

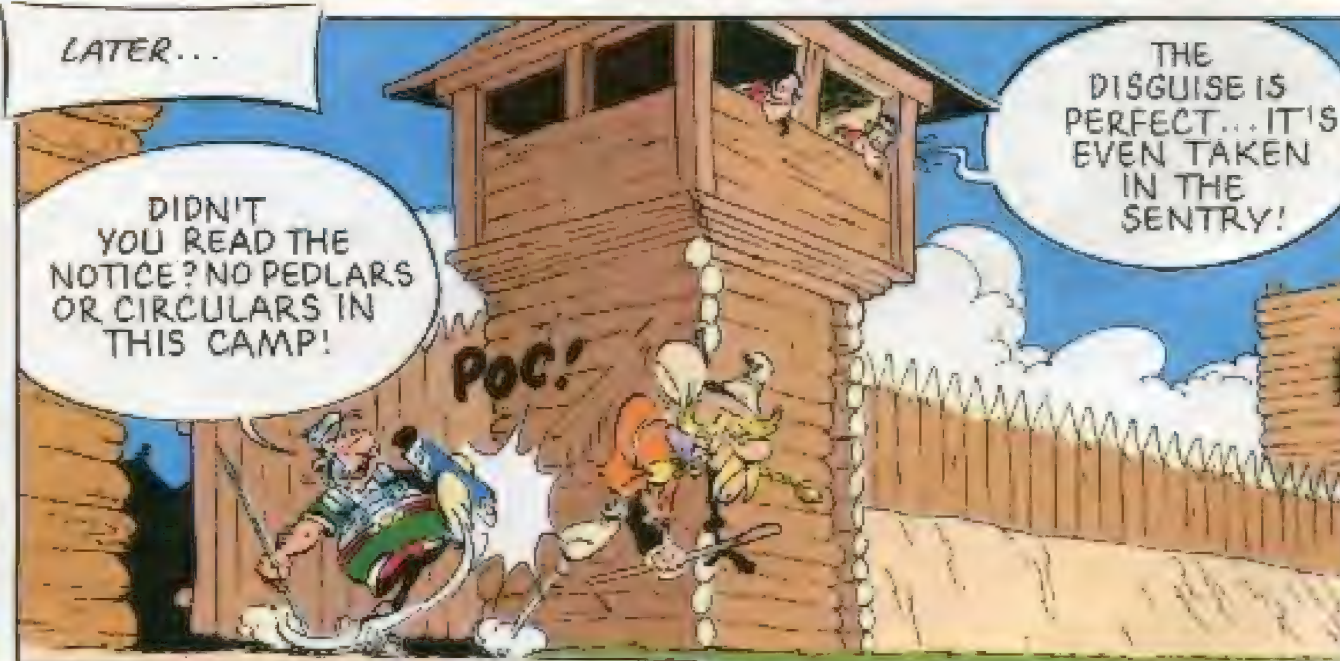


IF YOU AGREE, AND SUCCEED, YOU'LL GET TO BE OPTIO!

AND IF I, LIKE, SAY NO, Y'KNOW?



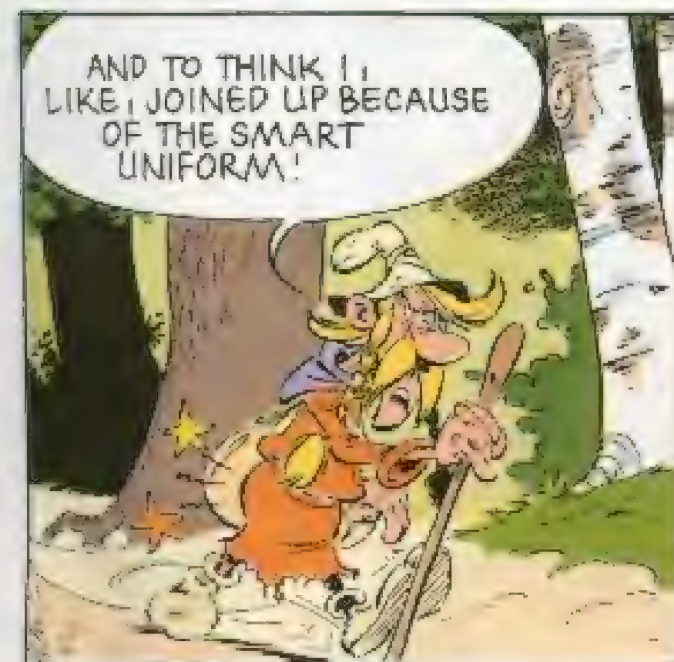
THEN YOU'LL, LIKE, GET TO BE DINNER FOR THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS, Y'KNOW!



LATER...

DIDN'T YOU READ THE NOTICE? NO PEDLARS OR CIRCULARS IN THIS CAMP!

THE DISGUISE IS PERFECT... IT'S EVEN TAKEN IN THE SENTRY!

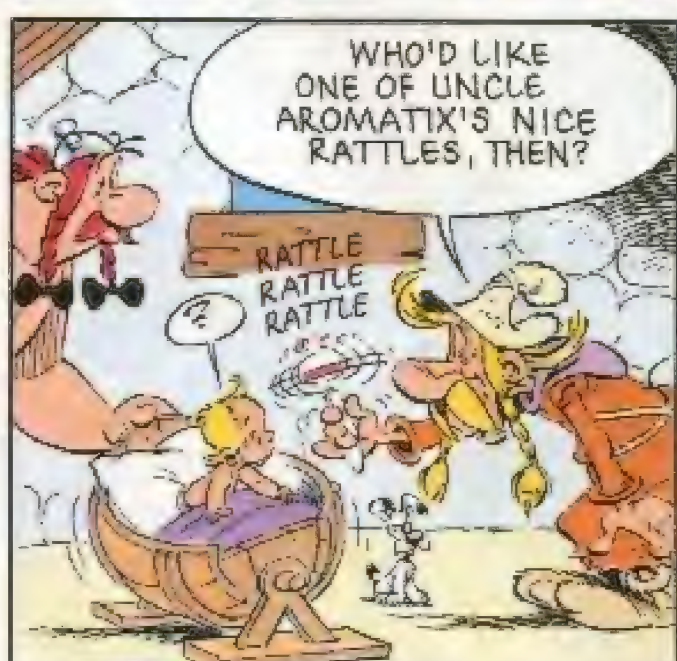


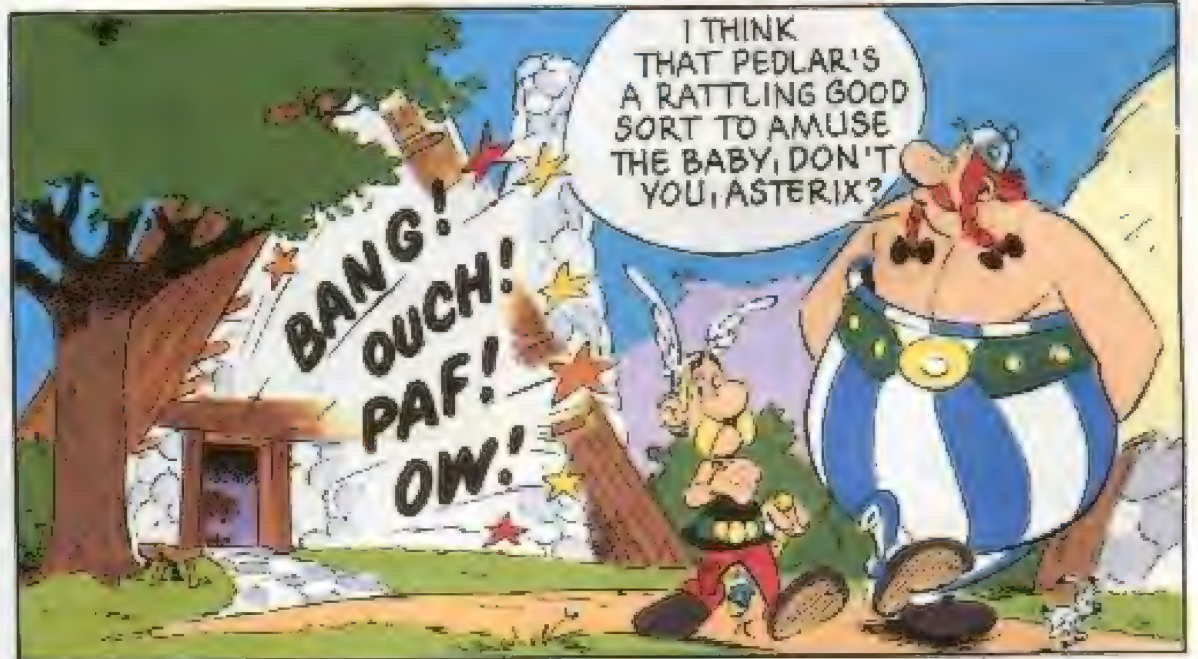
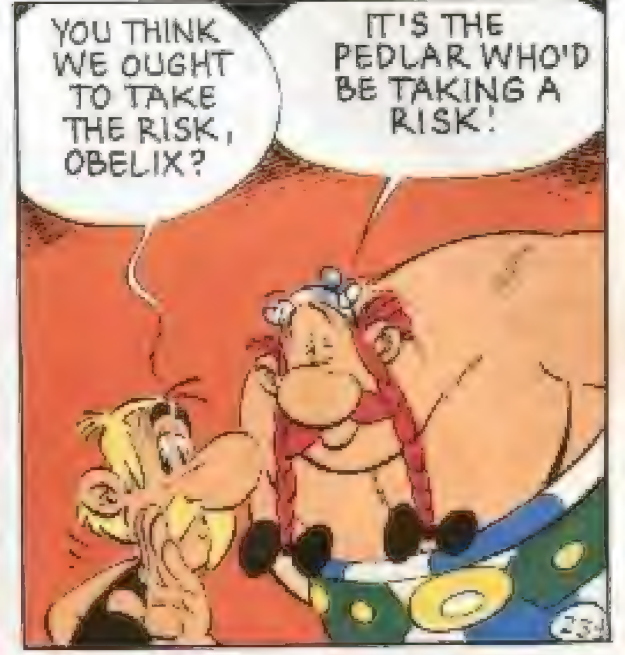
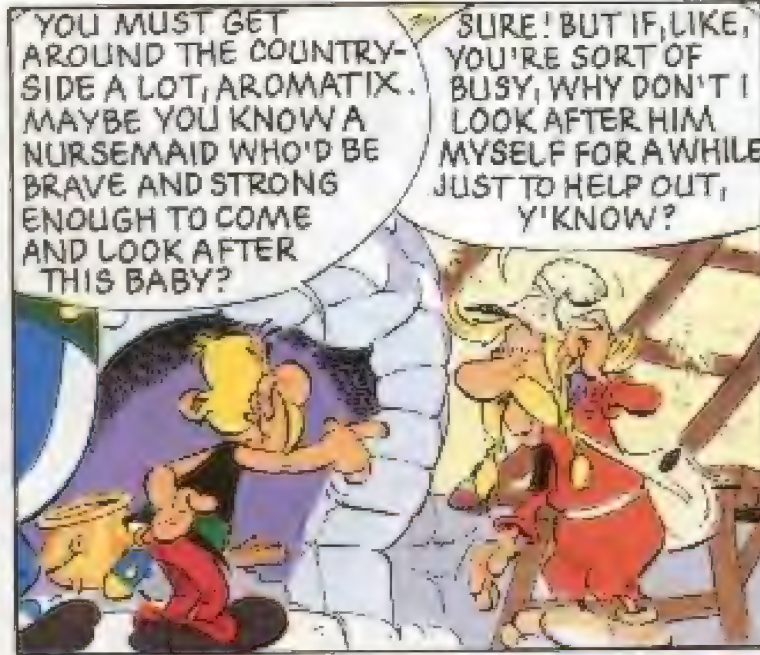
AND TO THINK I, LIKE, JOINED UP BECAUSE OF THE SMART UNIFORM!

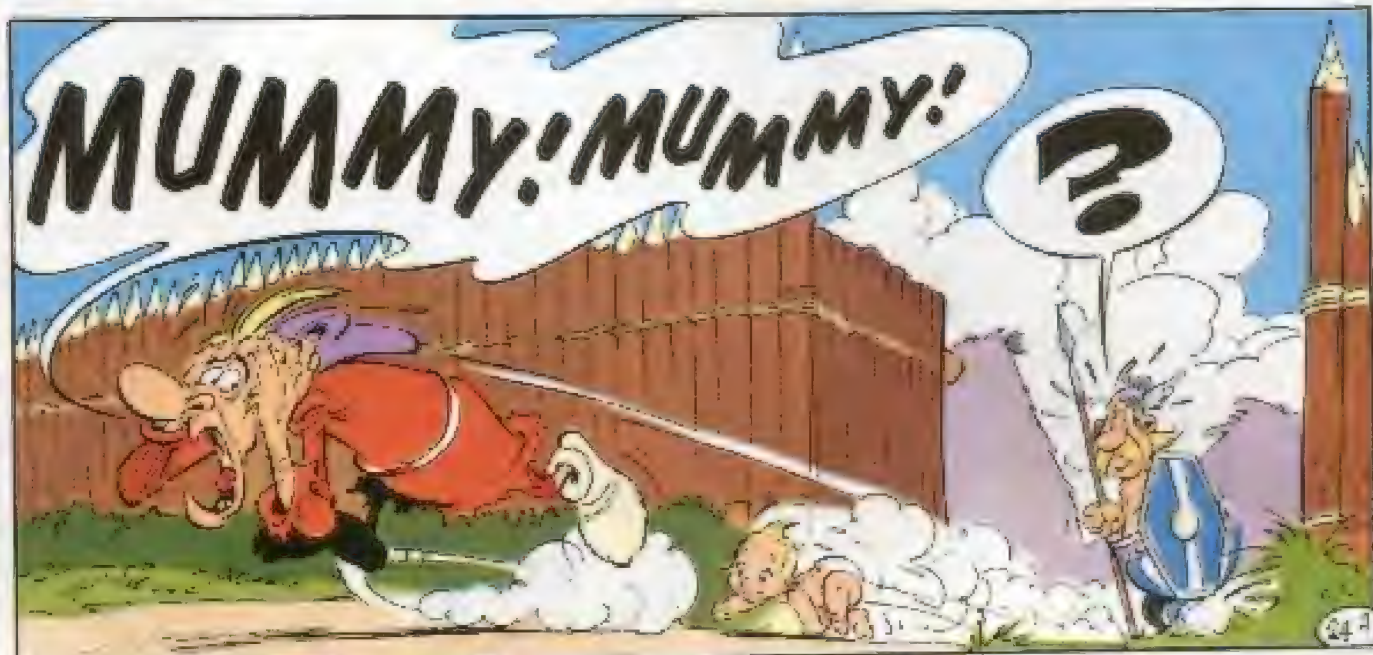


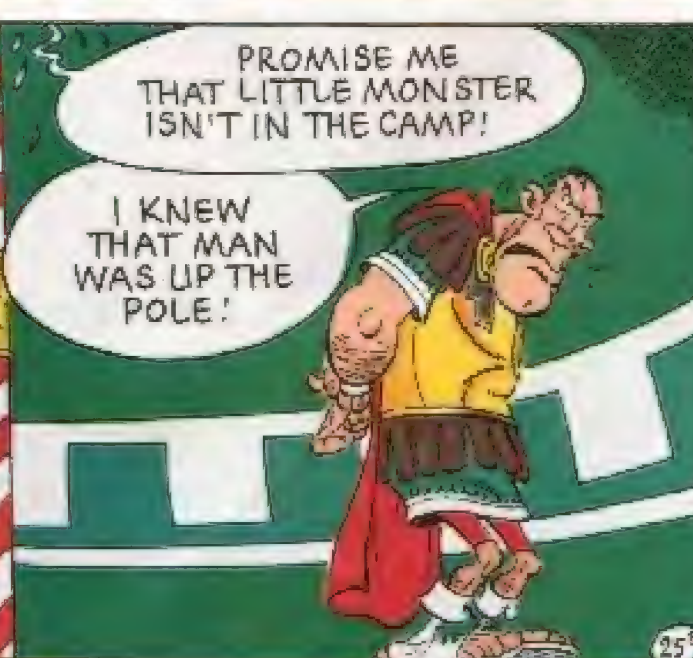
LATER STILL, JUST OUTSIDE ASTERIX'S VILLAGE...

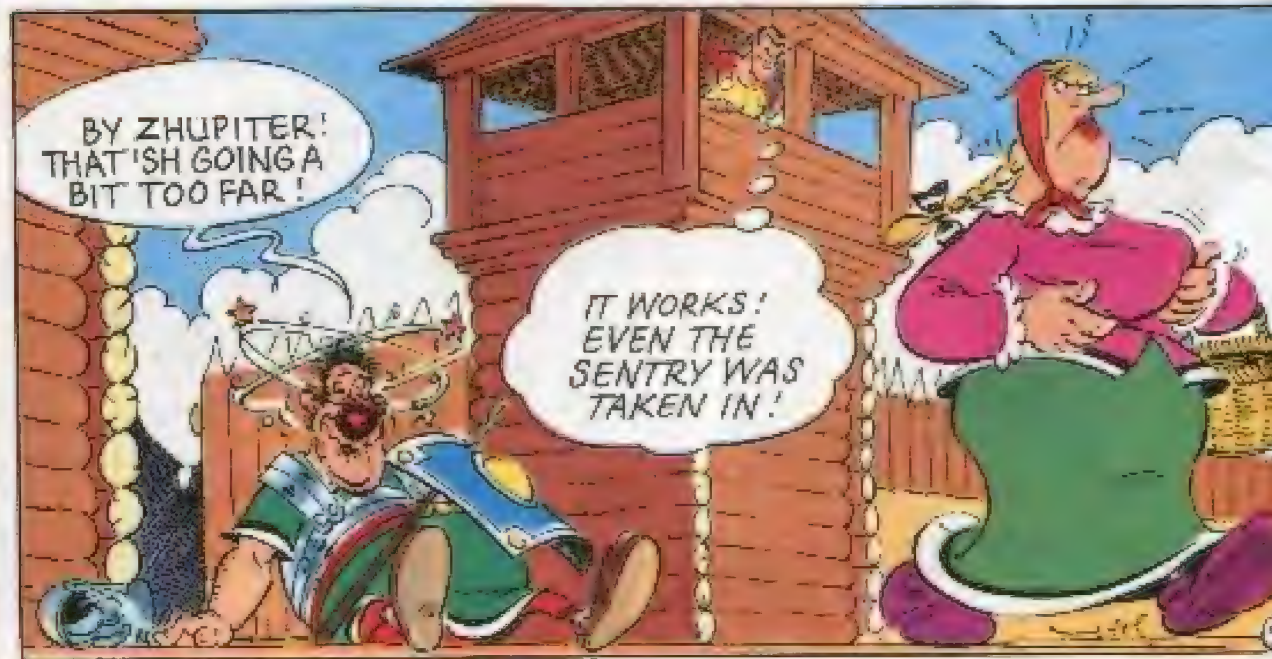
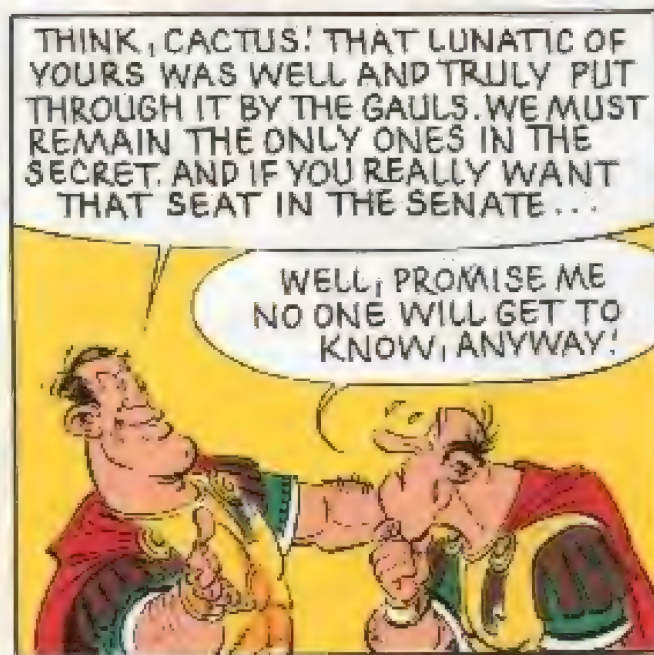
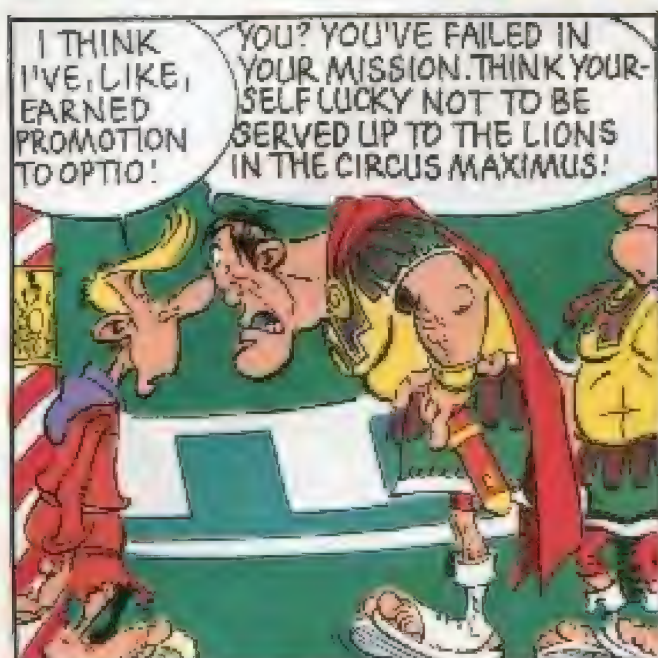
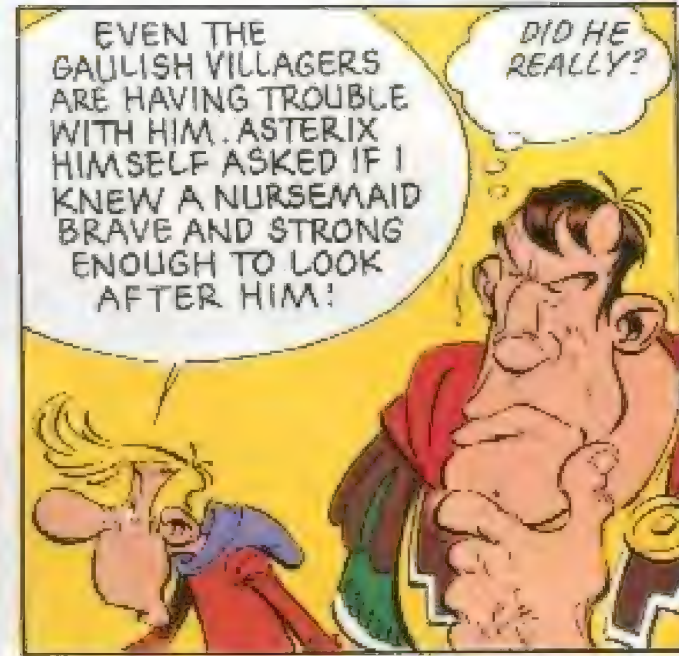
GET OUT! NO PEDLARS OR CIRCULARS IN THIS VILLAGE!

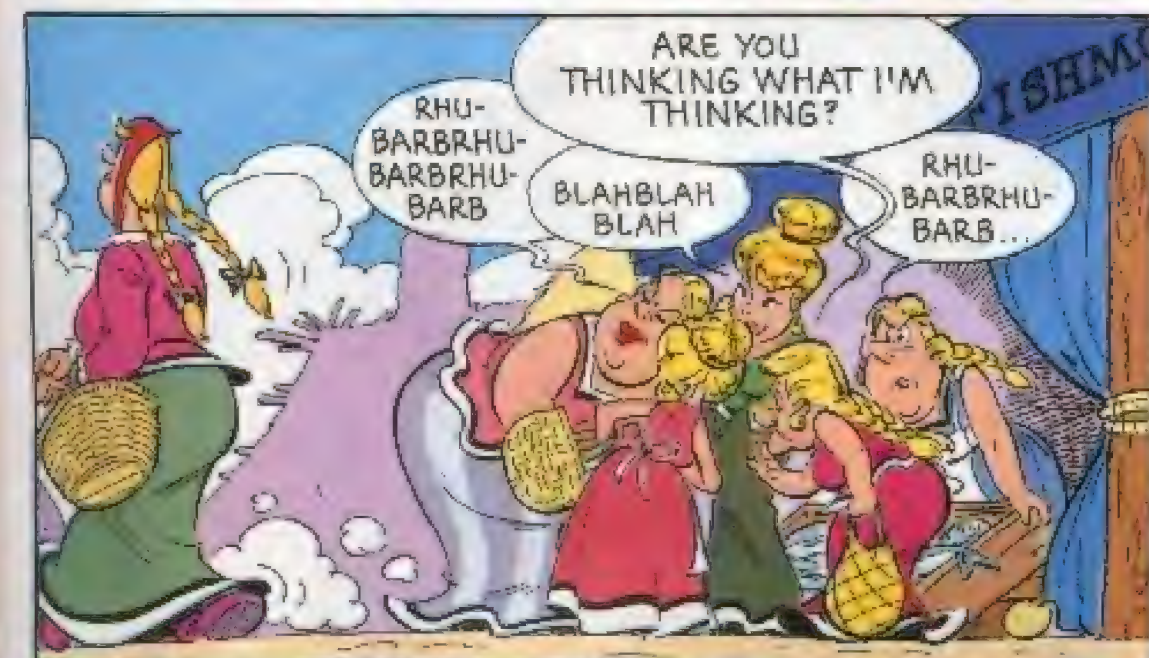


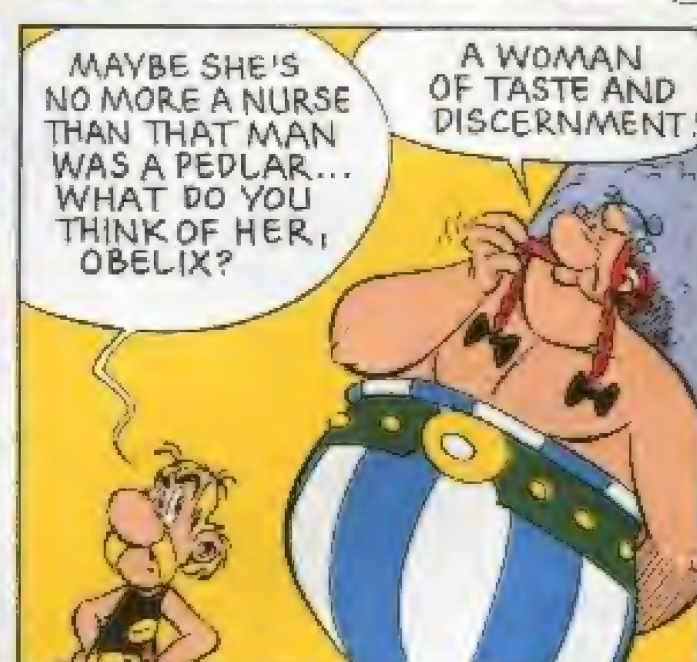
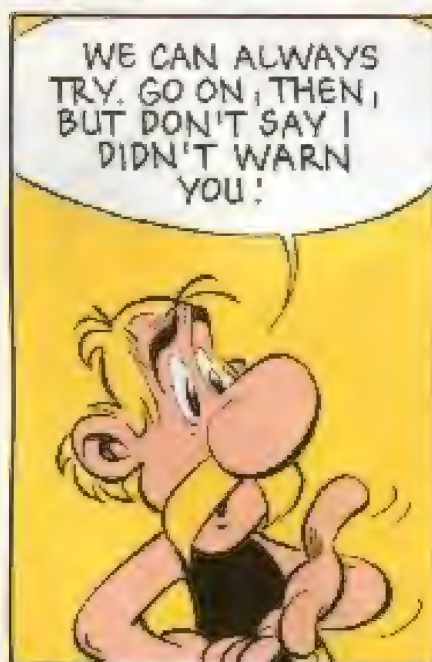
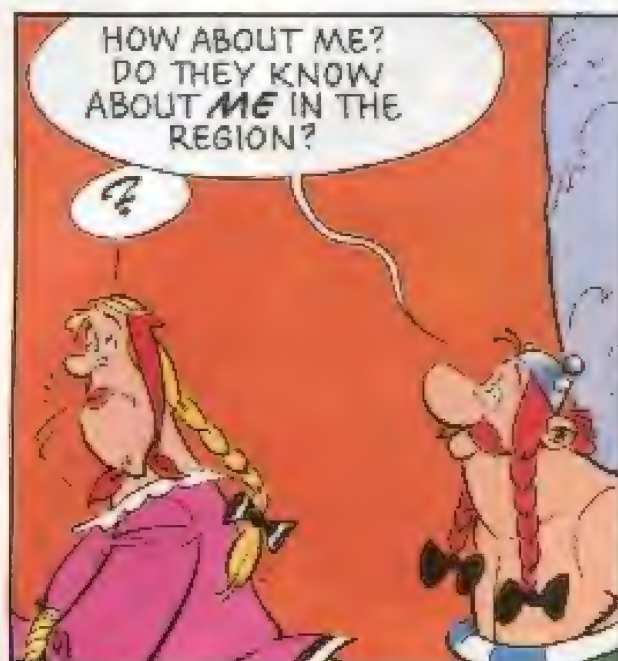




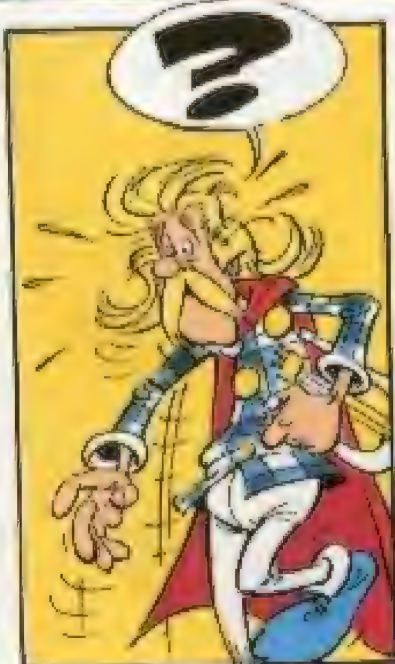
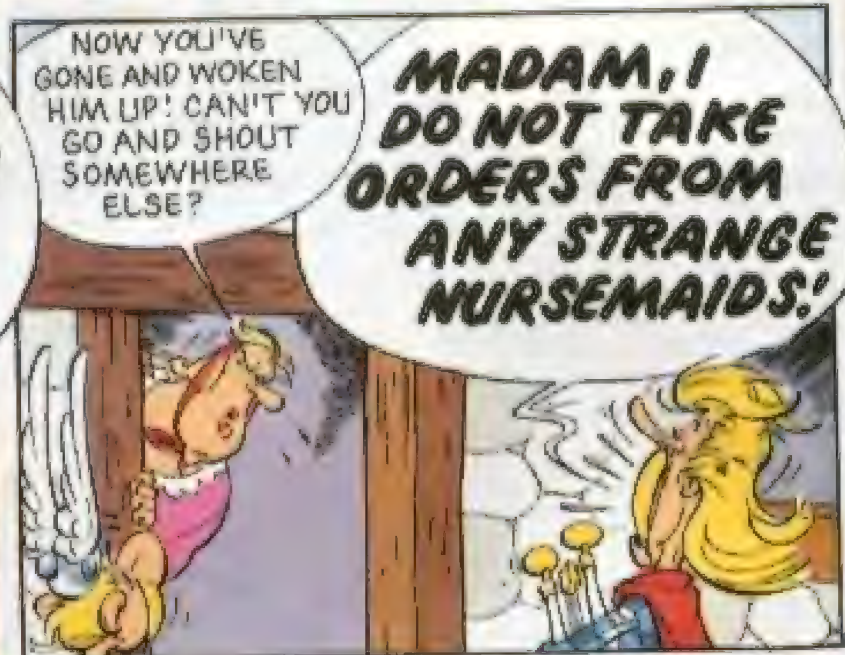
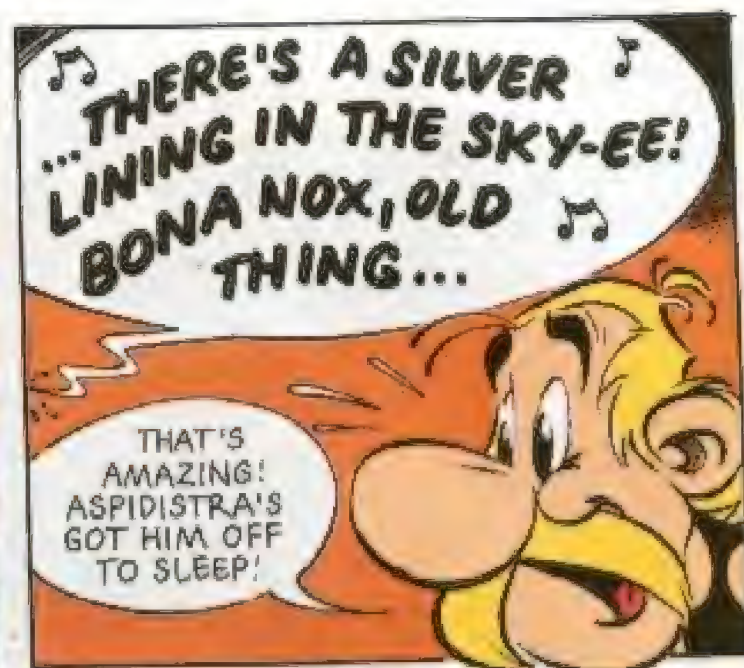






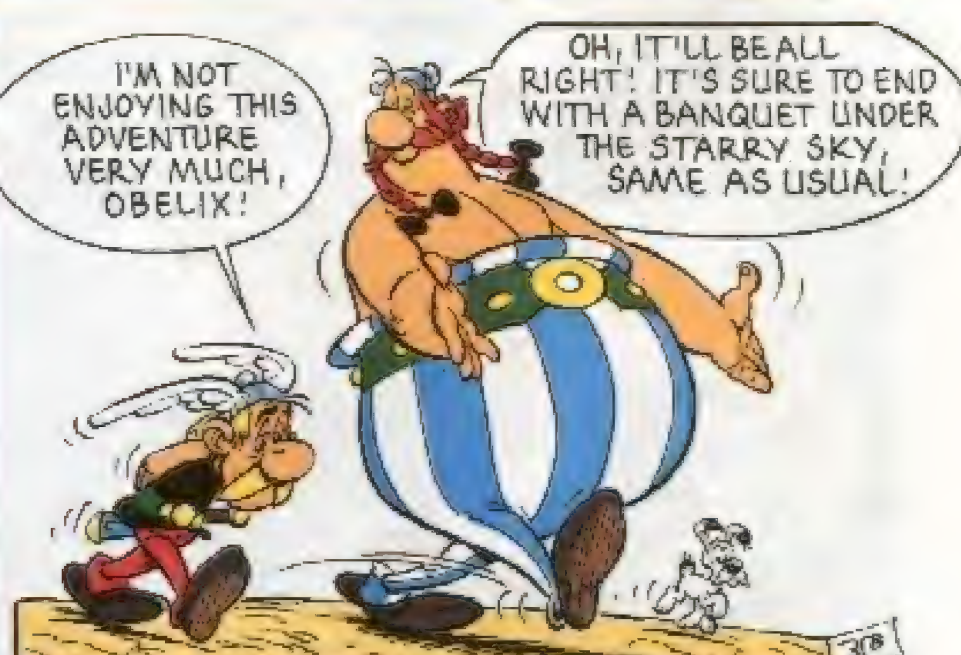
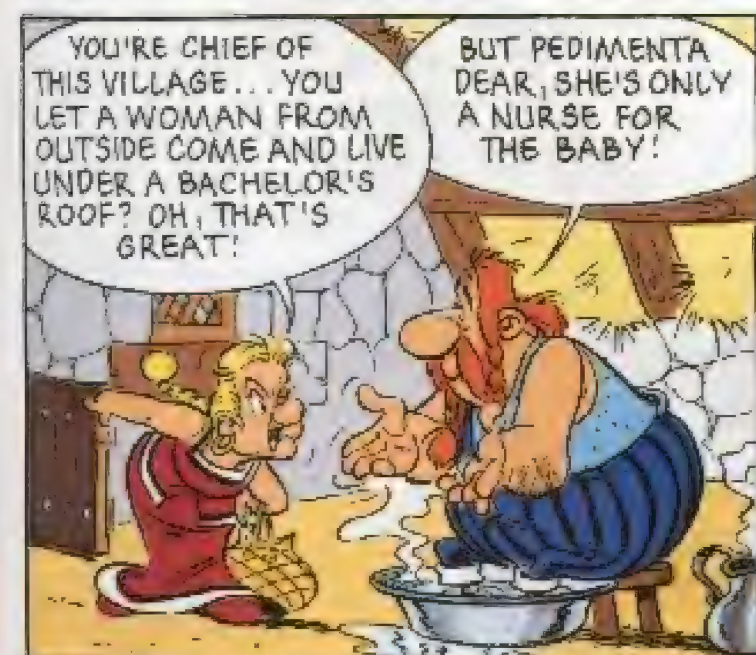
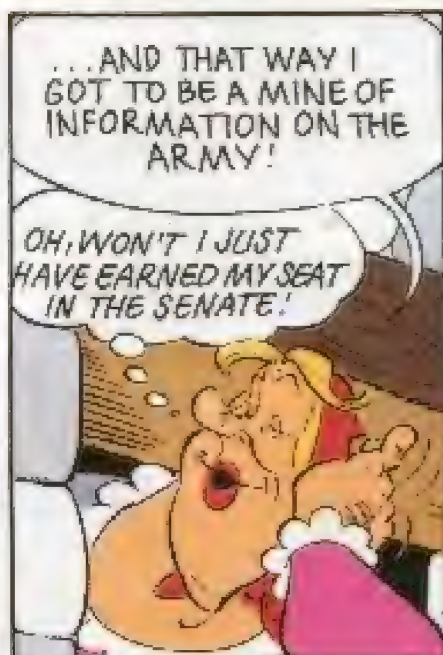
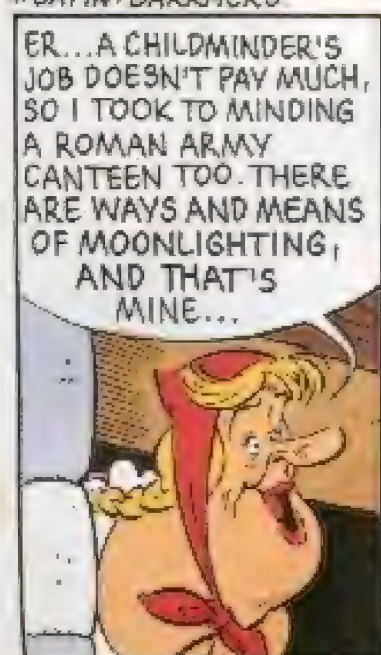


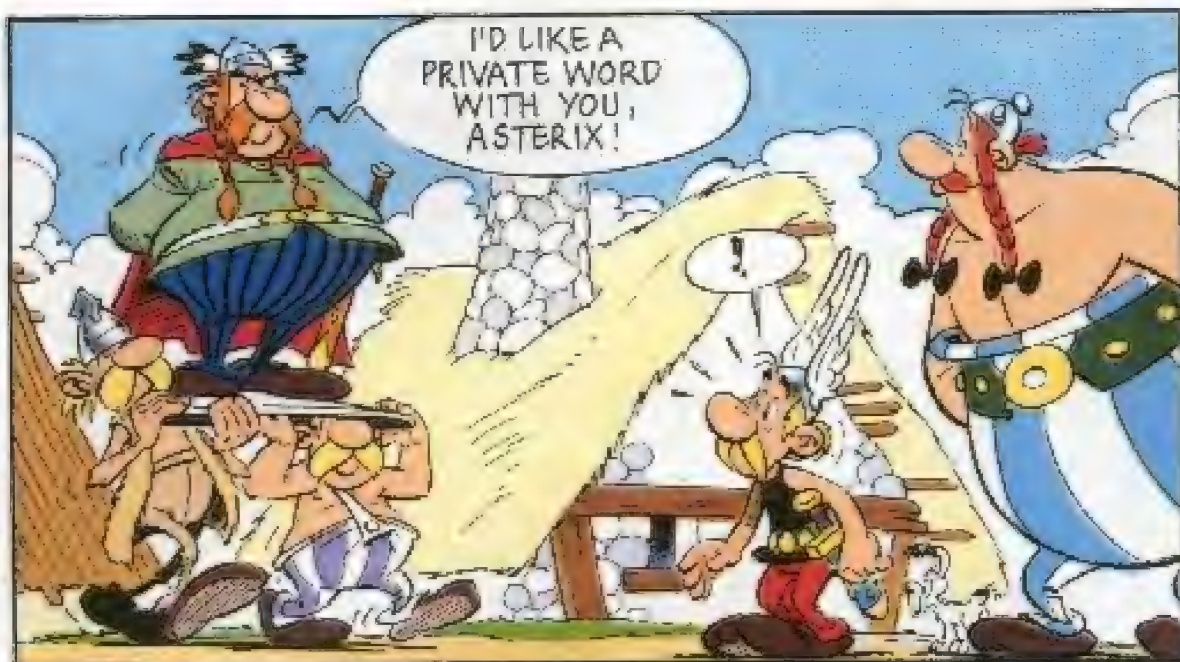




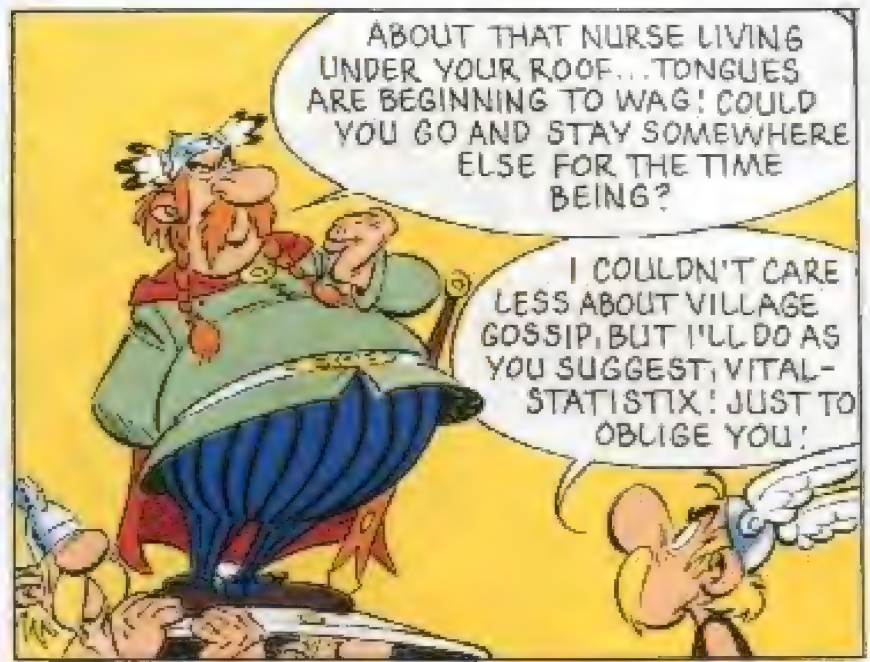


*LATIN: BARRACKS





I'D LIKE A
PRIVATE WORD
WITH YOU,
ASTERIX!



ABOUT THAT NURSE LIVING
UNDER YOUR ROOF... TONGUES
ARE BEGINNING TO WAG! COULD
YOU GO AND STAY SOMEWHERE
ELSE FOR THE TIME
BEING?

I COULDN'T CARE
LESS ABOUT VILLAGE
GOSSIP, BUT I'LL DO AS
YOU SUGGEST, VITAL-
STATISTIX! JUST TO
OBLIGE YOU!



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

MOVING OUT!
IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL
BE AT OBELIX'S
PLACE!

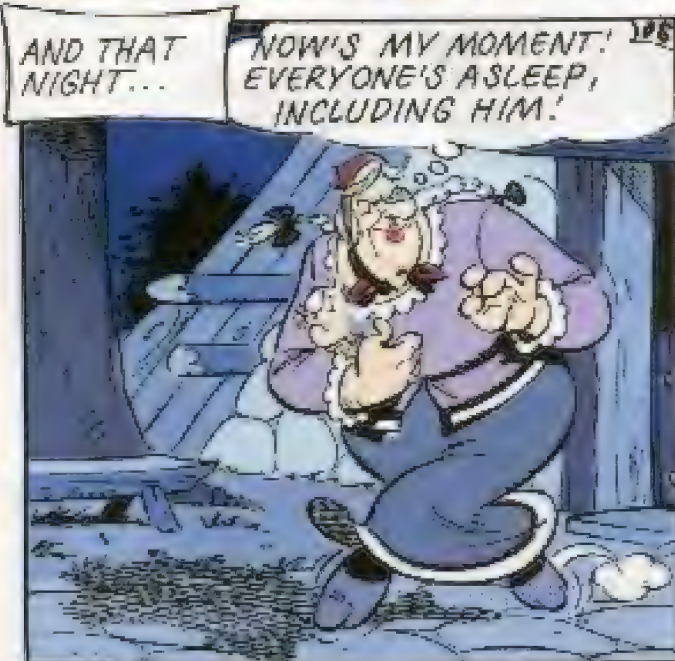


HO, HO! THE
FOOL'S LEFT
THE COAST CLEAR
FOR ME! NOW
I CAN EASILY
MAKE OFF
WITH THE BABY
AT DEAD OF
NIGHT!



**MADemoiselle FROM
ARMORICA,
PARLEY-VOO...**

TO BE HONEST,
I'LL BE RATHER GLAD
TO STAY WITH
OBELIX JUST
NOW!



AND THAT
NIGHT...

NOW'S MY MOMENT!
EVERYONE'S ASLEEP,
INCLUDING HIM!



WAAAAH!



WAAH!

**IT WAS
SOLSTICE DAY
IN THE
CULINA...**

* ROMAN
ARMY
COOKHOUSE.



AND A VERY
UNHAPPY
SOLSTICE TO
YOU TOO!

PUT A
SOCK IN IT,
WILL YOU?

ONLY BARDS
HAVE THE RIGHT
TO SING!

CALL
THAT
SINGING?

WILL SOME-
BODY MAKE
THAT WOMAN
SHUT UP?

FOILED!

THERE,
THERE,
PEDIMENTA!

COCK-A-DOODLE-DO!

NEXT MORNING...

OH, I **WILL** HAVE EARNED THAT SEAT IN THE SENATE, AND NO MISTAKE!



BUT FOR THE EFFECTS OF THAT WRETCHED POTION, I'D TUCK HIM UNDER MY ARM AND MAKE OFF WITH HIM NOW!

BURP!



COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW DO I KNOW THE POTION'S STILL WORKING ON YOU, EH?

GA?



GA!

CLOCK!



EVERY-THING OKAY?

SORT OF... ARE THE EFFECTS OF THAT MAGIC POTION GOING TO LAST MUCH LONGER?



THAT DEPENDS! JUDGING BY OBELIX, THEY COULD LAST FOR EVER!



AND SO, A LITTLE LATER...

WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO STICK AROUND IN THIS ROTTEN VILLAGE FOR EVER, WEARING THESE ROTTEN CLOTHES AND PLAYING THIS ROTTEN PART!



TOO BAD! I'LL RISK IT!



WHERE ARE YOU GOING, GORGEOUS?

ER... I'M GOING INTO THE FOREST TO PICK MUSHROOMS!

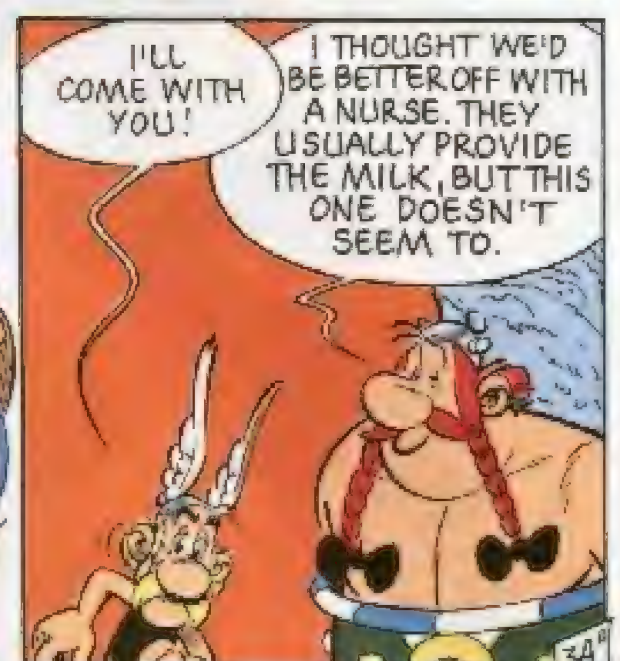
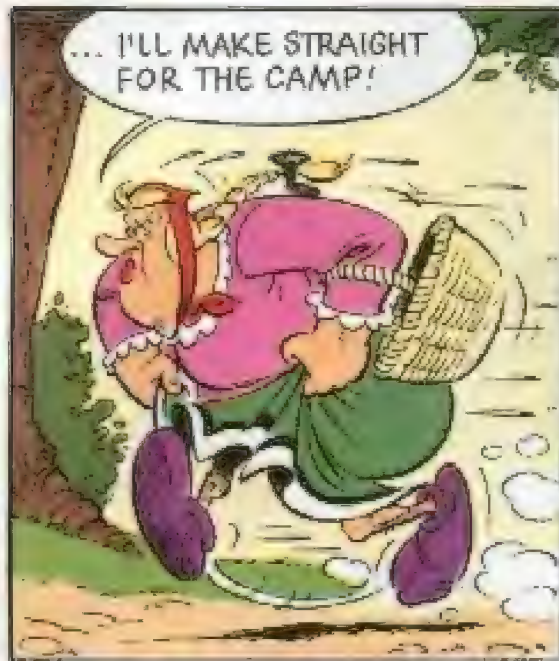


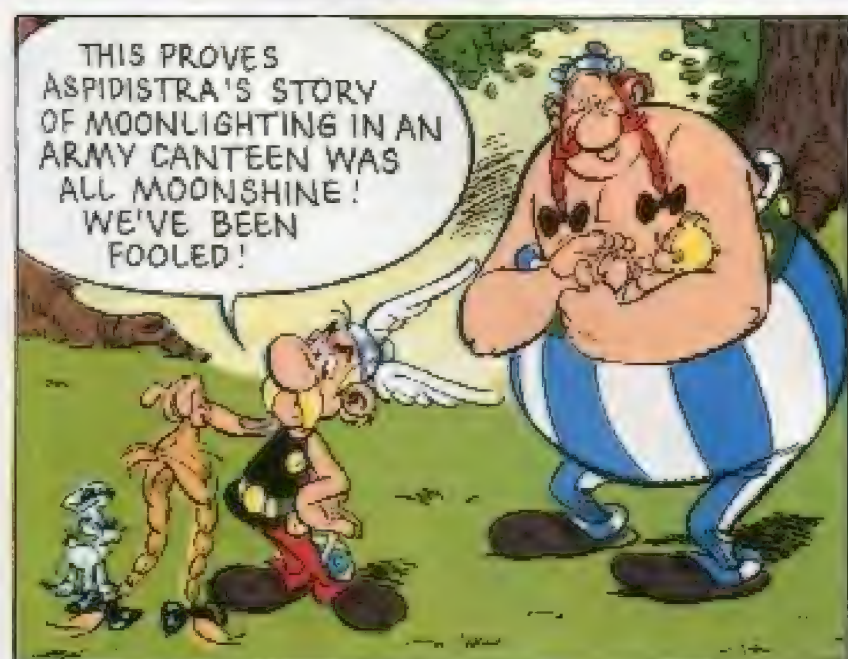
WAAAH!

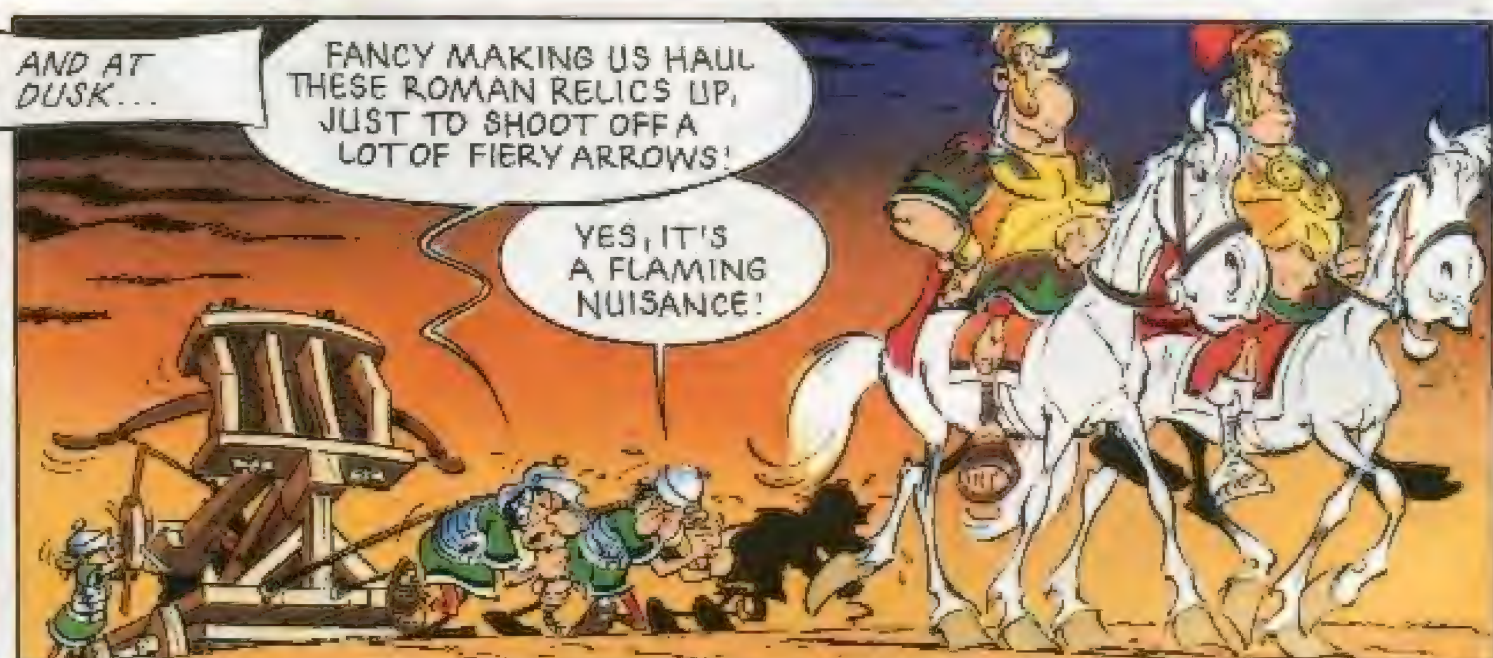
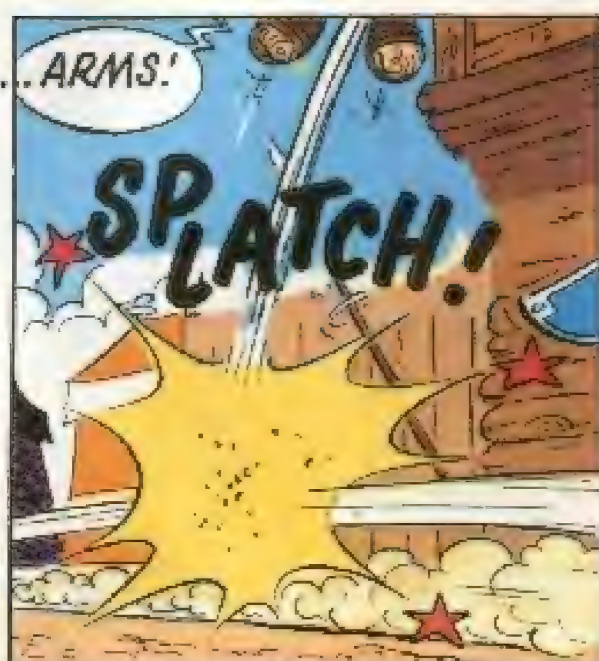
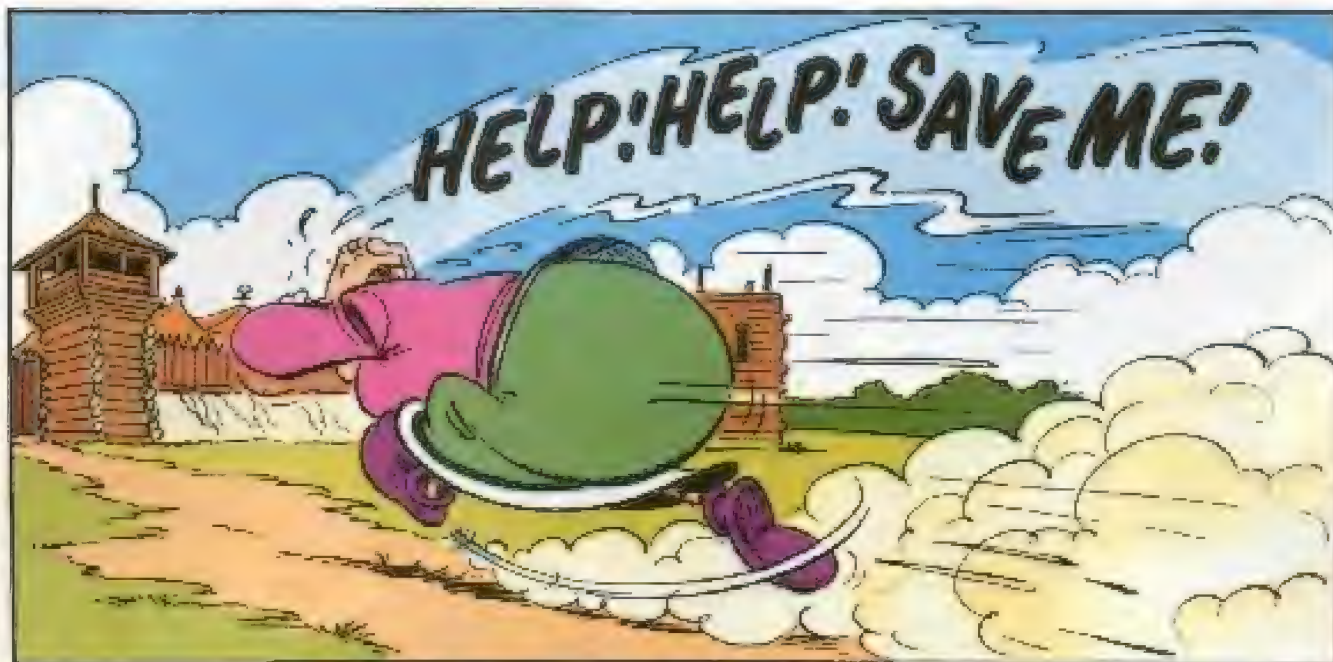




*LATIN: KIT-BAG.







THAT NIGHT,
SEVERAL MILIA
PASSULUM* FROM
THE VILLAGE....

GET IT, CACTUS? I'M
LEAVING YOU IN COMMAND!
WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL,
OPEN FIRE!

*MILLE PASSUS= 1 ROMAN MILE.

A FIERY
ARROW! THE
SIGNAL!

ARE YOU
READY..?

FIRE!

THE ROMANS
ARE
ATTACKING!!!

FIRE!

THE VILLAGE
IS BURNING!

COCK-A-DOODLE-DO!

IMPEDIMENTA, YOU TAKE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN DOWN TO THE BEACH WHILE WE DEAL WITH THE ROMANS!

I'LL LEAVE HIM IN YOUR CARE! I'M SURE HE'LL BE GOOD!



EVERYBODY LINE UP IN SILENCE, AND DON'T PANIC!



NO?

NO!

IT SEEMS TO TASTE RATHER FUNNY THIS TIME!

I EXPECT IT GOT A BIT BURNT IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT.



THE ROMANS ARE PLAYING WITH FIRE... NOW LET'S SHOW THEM WHAT *WE* CAN COOK UP!

CHARGE!

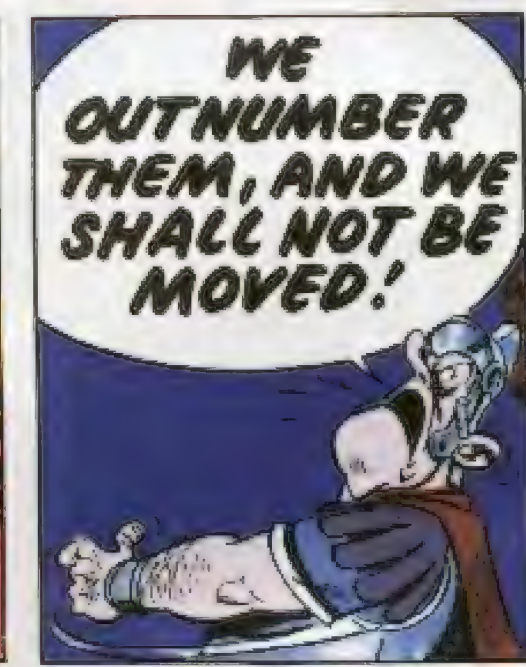


INVESTIGATORS FIRST! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ASTERIX?

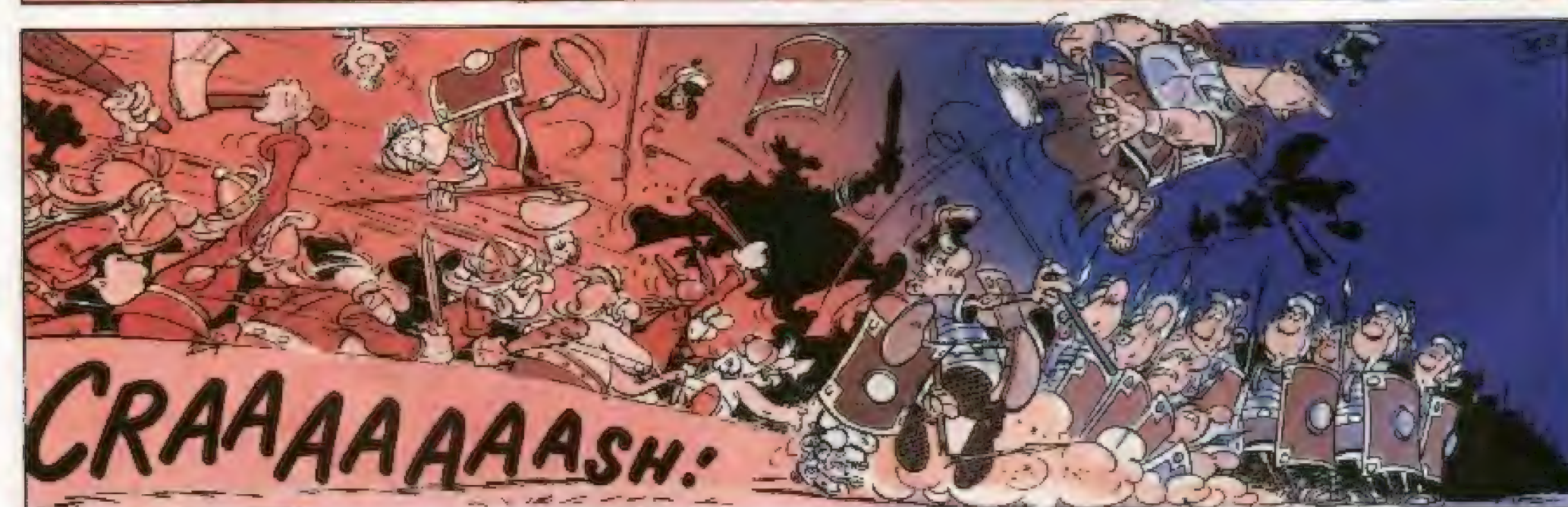
CHARGE!



WE OUTNUMBER THEM, AND WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED!



CRAAAAAASH:



MEANWHILE...



